

April 28, 2017

George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III, Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Jamie L. Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC, 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We the undersigned, 334 certified organic beef, pork, dairy, and poultry producers representing approximately \$1.95 billion in annual organic sales, express strong support for the recently published Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule and urge you to let it become effective, in its entirety, on May 19th, 2017 without further delay. The industry-developed standard enshrined in the rule represents over a decade of discussion, feedback and support from our industry and ensures that we operate on a level playing field and meet a consistent standard, regardless of our operation size.

The organic industry overall has experienced double-digit growth annually over the last five years, achieving over \$43 billion in sales in 2015. The organic livestock and dairy sector represents over 17% of total organic sales and the organic dairy sector alone represents the second-largest and fastest-growing food segment in the industry. Consumer demand for our products still outpaces domestic production, creating opportunities for continued expansion of our farms.

As organic farmers, our very survival is dependent upon the trust that we have built with the American consumer. We are proud to be delivering a product that meets the highest standards possible and is in line with consumer expectations of what the USDA organic label means. A recent Consumer Reports survey found that 83% of consumers who frequently purchase organic products believe that organic eggs should come from hens that have access to the outdoors.

The decision to become certified organic is voluntary, if consumers lose confidence in the organic seal it will have catastrophic impacts throughout the industry. We believe that the rule strikes the right balance between meeting consumer expectations and the reality of commercial scale food production. We look forward to working with you on implementation of the rule and are available to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

Holcroft Farm
Summers, AR

Vernon Hostetler
Clarksville, AR

Alexandre EcoDairy Farms
Crescent City, CA

Roy Hostetler
Clarksville, AR

Pleasant Pastures Poultry
Pocahontas, AR

Chino Valley Ranchers
Colton, CA

Doodlebug Ranches Paicines, CA	Doug Baker Tampico, IL	Joe Gingerich Shipshewana, IN
Harvest Fields Organic Farm Fresno, CA	Edwin Blosser Tampico, IL Elmer Ulrich Harmon, IL	Mahlon Graber Woodburn, IN Matthew Graber Grabill, IN
Leavitt Lake Ranches Vina, CA	Eric Hostetler Avoca, IL	Alvin Graber Macy, IN
Sol Seeker Farm Salinas, CA	Darwin Hostetler Harmon, IL	Amos Hostetler Topeka, IN
Aurora Organic Dairy Boulder, CO	Lynn Kropf Tampico, IL	Jay Dee Lehman Shipshewana, IN
Henry Miller Cisne, IL	Virgil Garretson Sheffield, IL	Mike Lehman Middlebury, IN
Jeff Wuebbels Germantown, IL	Theresa Westaby, CR View Organic Dairy, Delmar, IL	Tod Lemier Bourbon, IN
Sam Zook Geff, IL	Marlin Kauffman Creston, IA	David Lengacher Harlan, IN
Ulrich Harmon, IL	Maynard Hostetler Creston, IA	Earl Lengacher Woodburn, IN
Blosser Tampico, IL	Tim Maibach Bloomfield, IA	Jonas Lengacher Grabill, IN
Hostetler Tampico, IL	John Brunquell Egg Innovations Warsaw, IN	Paul Lengacher Harlan, IN
Nelson Blosser Tampico, IL	Chris Beechy Dillsboro, IN	Amos Lengacher Spencerville, IN
Baker Brothers Tampico, IL	Dan Bontrager Shipshewana, IN	Amzie Martin Rochester, IN
John Hostetler Tampico, IL	Lavern Eash Middlebury, IN	Everett Martin Goshen, IN
Ernest Blosser Tampico, IL	DeWayne Eash New Paris, IN	Marlin Miller Dillsboro, IN
Dennis Kropf Tampico, IL		

John Miller
Middlebury, IN

Larry Nightingale
Pulaski, IA

Mark Kruse
Lansing, IA

Rufus Ramer
Rochester, IN

Arlyn Kauffman
Weldon, IA

Andy Bishop
Willisburg, KY

Chad Ramseyer
Poneto, IN

Gary Kauffman
Lorimor, IA

Justin Dorris
Morgantown, KY

Kevin Ramseyer
Poneto, IN

Jacob Klassen
Stanton, IA

Darren Gordon
Clarkson, KY

Albert Schrock
Pennville, IN

Jake Kropf
Spragueville, IA

Austin Hostetler
Auburn, KY

Stephen Stalter
Wakarusa, IN

Dennis Headings
Lorimor, IA

Colten Hostetler
Auburn, KY

Sam Stalter
Wakarusa, IN

Duane Headings
Bellevue, IA

Rich Pemberton
Beaver Dam, KY

Laverne Stutzman
Etna Green, IN

Ronnie Kauffman
Creston, IA

Larry Ryker
Bonneville, KY

John Wengerd
Geneva, IN

Stacy Bushman
Fort Atkinson, IA

Marvin Sauder
Owenton, KY

Daniel Yoder
Topeka, IN

Royal Hostetler
Spragueville, IA

Leon Sauder
Liberty, KY

Lonnie Yoder
LaGrange, IN

Blake Family Farm
Waukon, IA

Roy Sauder
Liberty, KY

Miller
Goshen, IN

James Frantzen
Elma, IA

Norman Schlabach
Auburn, KY

Schlabach
Goshen, IN

Tom Frantzen
New Hampton, IA

Keith Taul
Cecilia, KY

Beechy
Topeka, IN

Ron Rosmann
Harlan, IA

Kenny Thomas
Morgantown, KY

Freeman Fry
Topeka, IN

Ryan Wangsness
Decorah, IA

Elmwood Stock Farm
Georgetown, KY

Kevin Packnett
Afton, IA

Rick Hellman
Burt, IA

Martin
Brownfield, ME

Douglas Hartkopf
Hart to Hart Farm
Albion,ME

Joe Bontreger
Holten, MI

Aaron Keilen
Portland, MI

Fred Callens and Family
Minneota, MN

Loretta and Martin Jaus
Jaus Farms Inc
Gibbon, MN

Montana Organic
Producers Cooperative
Bozeman, MT

Willie Shrock
Buffalo, MO

Kent Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Jeremy Bosser
Buffalo, MO

Jake Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Matthew Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Marion Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Ernest Schwartzentruber
Buffalo, MO

Brian Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Jeff Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Shane Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Pete Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Chad Headings
Buffalo, MO

Maynard Eigsti
Buffalo, MO
Frank Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Gaylord Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Lester Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Clark Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Matt Rogers
Mtn Grove, MO

Dwayne Schartzentruber
Buffalo, MO

Jesse Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Dave Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Andrew Hoover
Downing, MO

Hillcrest
El Dorado Springs, MO

Hominy Creek
Halfway, MO

Hoover Farm
El Dorado Springs, MO

Lost Valley Farms
El Dorado Springs, MO

M&S Farm
Seymour, MO

Mockingbird Hill
El Dorado Springs, MO

Riverside
El Dorado Springs, MO

Sandy Top Farm
El Dorado Springs, MO

Scenic View
El Dorado Springs, MO

Schneider Farms
Walker, MO

Scrambled Acres LLC
Versailles, MO

Darin Hostetler
Buffalo, MO

Kevin Blosser
Buffalo, MO

Shady Lane
El Dorado Springs, MO

Sunnyside Up
Seymour, MO

Sunset Acres
El Dorado Springs, MO

Triple Z Farm
Tunas, MO

John Weaver
Knox City, MO

Jonathan Diller
Rutledge, MO

Kenneth Hoover
Gorin, MO

Valley View
Collins, MO

Wild Rose Hills
Buffalo, MO

Windmill Acres
El Dorado Springs, MO

Rocking M Ranch
El Dorado Springs, MO

Clayton Garretson
Shelbina, MO

Curvin Nolt
Hurdland, MO

David Hostetler
Shelbina, MO

Nevin Horning
Arbela, MO

Seth Garretson
Hunnewell, MO

Leonard Burkholder
Edina, MO

Vernon Brubaker
Arbela, MO

Hickory Creek Poultry,
LLC
Jamesport, MO

Floyd Hostetler
Jamesport, MO

Jonas Hostetler
Jamesport, MO

Joseph Hostetler
Jamesport, MO

Nate Powell-Palm
Bozeman, MT

Casey Bailey
Fort Benton, MT

Mark Smith
Lavina, MT

Bob Herdegen
Chinook, MT

Clay McAlpine
Valier, MT

Jody Manuel
Havre, MT

Rob Knotts
Lambert, MT

Jess Alger
Stanford, MT

Dave Anderson
Belt, MT

Wes Henthorne
Big Timber, MT

Audra Parker
Ogalala, NE

Jesse Laflamme
Pete & Gerry's Organics,
LLC
Monroe, NH

Giavagnoli
Boscowen, NH

Ward
Monroe, NH

Applegate Natural and
Organic Meats
Bridgewater, NJ

Art Schaap
Native Pastures Dairy
Clovis, NM

Betsy Babcock
Handsome Brook Farm
Franklin, NY

Latremore
Chazy, NY

Burkholder
Fort Covington, NY
Sensening
North Bangor, NY

Reiff
North Bangor, NY

Paul & Maureen Knapp
Cobblestone Valley Farm
Preble, NY

David Hardy
Hardy Family Farm, LLC
Mohawk, NY

Doug Burbaugh
Harpster, OH

Perry Clutts
Circleville, OH

CW Harting
Convoy, OH

Doug Poling
Convoy, OH

Raber
Baltic, OH

Piskac
Medina, OH

Petersheim
Mt. Vernon, OH

Troyer
NW Sugarcreek, OH

King
Rushsylvania, OH

Raber Sugarcreek, OH	Jeff Daniels Halifax, PA	Carl Hurst Robesonia, PA
Mast Walhonding, OH	Matt Dersham Milmont, PA	Lavern Kauffman Millerstown, PA
David R. Ring Shiloh Acres Dairy Conneaut, OH	Randy Dunkelberger Middleburg, PA	Mike Kurtz McClure, PA
Alvin Bowman Fredricksburg, OH	James Eby Gap, PA	Terry Lehman Myerstown, PA
Scott Stoller Stollers' Organic Dairy, Ltd Sterling, OH	Nevin Ehst Bernville, PA	Wanda Lehman Willow Hill, PA
David Osterloh Iv-Ann Farms Maria Stein, OH	John Fisher Loganton, PA	Wayne Martin Bernville, PA
Menno Farm Welch, OK	Allen Glick Elizabethville, PA	John Martin Elizabethtown, PA
Darren Good Lititz, PA	Lamar Martin Elizabethtown, PA	
Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt	Dale Greiner Maheim, PA	Gary Musser Bethel, PA
Willow-Witt Ranch Ashland, OR	Gerald High Richfield, PA	Mike Musser Bethel, PA
Common Treasury Farm Alea, OR	Lester Hoover Millersburg, PA	Harold Nolt Mifflinburg, PA
David Breckbill Willow Street, PA	Ervin Hoover Mifflinburg, PA	Dennis Nolt Millerstown, PA
Dick Burchfield Port Royal, PA	Carl Hoover Myerstown, PA	Justin Oberholtzer Lititz, PA
Jay Burkholder Peach Bottom, PA	Elam Horning Leola, PA	Darrell Ranck Strasburg, PA
Jeff Cook Selinsgrove, PA	Wilmer Horst Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA	Landis Reiff Mifflinburg, PA
Tim & Joel Crouse Myerstown, PA	Doug Hottenstein Elizabethtown, PA	Daryl Sensenig Newmanstown, PA

Nelson Sensenig Newmanstown, PA	Ephraim Beiler Bird in Hand, PA	Andy Wilcox Wilcox Farms Roy, WA
Neal Sensenig Newmanstown, PA	Ron Bennick Sunbury, PA	Maynard Mallonee Mallonee family farm LLC Curtis WA
Bill Shepperson Sunbury, PA	Jay Bomgardner Ephrata, PA	Andrew Dykstra Dykstra Farms Burlington, WA
Mark Siegrist Fredericksburg, PA	Benjamin E. Kauffman Gratz, PA	Dean Wesen Wesen Organic Dairy Bow, WA
Dale Slaymaker Washington Borough, PA	Daniel Kauffman Spring Glen, PA	Organic Valley / CROPP Cooperative (An 1,800 member organic farmer owned cooperative) La Farge, WI
Mervin Stauffer Mifflinburg, PA	Jerry L Lay II Muddy Water Farm Madisonville, TN	Gary Achenbach Eastman, WI
Jonathan Stauffer Elizabethtown, PA	Matt O'Hayer Vital Farms Austin, TX	Tony Bomkamp Muscoda, WI
Duane Swanger Bainbridge, PA	Miller Lyndonville, VT Leon L. Corse	Kevin Hall Livingston, WI
Alvin Weaver Myerstown, PA	The Corse Farm Dairy LLC Whitingham, VT	Loras Kilburg Cuba City, WI
Clyde Wenger Manheim, PA	Henry and Allison Pearl Hill View Farm Danville, VT	David Martin Bloomington, WI Jerry Nolt Boscobel, WI
Chris Willhide Dincannon, PA	Tyler and Melanie Webb Stony Pond Farm Fairfield, VT	Randy Nolt Boscobel, WI
Maynard Zimmerman Milmont, PA	Ayrshire Farm Upperville, VA	Michael Shirk Thorp, WI
Lee Zook Middleburg, PA	Jubilation Farm Purcellville, VA	Matt Teunissen Cedar Grove, WI
Chris Pierce Heritage Poultry Management Services Annville, PA	Mt. Gap Farm Leesburg, VA	

Edwin Weaver
Loyal, WI

Nelson Weaver
Curtiss, WI
Dan White
Mt. Hope, WI

Ammon Zimmerman
Stitzer, WI

Miller
Blue River, WI

David Bontrager
Sparta, WI

Ervin Miller
Hillsboro, WI

William Yoder
La Farge, WI

Melvin Yoder
Ontario, WI

Dennis Bontrager
Cambria, WI

Allan Miller
Cashton, WI

Andy Kauffman
Cashton, WI

Andrew Schwartz
Ontario, WI

Chester Kauffman
Cashton, WI

Daniel Yoder
Ontario, WI

Henry Hochstetler
Hillsboro, WI

Joe Kauffman
La Farge, WI

John Troyer
Cashton, WI

Joseph Schwartz
Pardeeville, WI

Levi Miller
La Farge, WI

Michael Miller
Wonewoc, WI

Norman Miller
Pardeeville, WI

Ben Miller
South Wayne, WI

Bryan Kauffman
Blue River, WI

David Packnett
Boscobel, WI

Eric Miller
Blue River, WI

Jeff Eigsti
Blue River, WI

Morris Zimmerman
Muscodia, WI

Randy Kauffman
Monroe, WI

Trent Hostetler
Avoca, WI

Marissa Taylor
Lonetree, WY

Kevin Mahalko
Mahalko Dairy
Gliman, WI

Douglas Delling
Ontario, WI

Jeff Galstad
Coon Valley, WI

Lucky H Acres
Coon Valley, WI

Michael G. McCarty
Stoddard, WI

Donna & Larry
Mikshowsky
Bangor, WI

Paul & Judy Olson
Taylor, WI

Bear Creek Organics
La Farge, WI

Alan Seelow
Chaseburg, WI

Jane Siemon
Viroqua, WI

Joel Goede
Genoa, WI

Roger Peters
Peters Farm
Chaseburg, WI

Arne Trussoni
Genoa, WI

Keith Wilson
Wilson Organic Farm
Cuba City, WI

Dan Pearson
River Falls, WI

Max Flaig
Flaig Farms LL
Sparta, WI