

to the certifying agent and the State organic certification program (if applicable), and such plan shall be reviewed by the certifying agent who shall determine if such plan meets the requirements of the programs.

(b) Crop production farm plan

(1) Soil fertility

An organic plan shall contain provisions designed to foster soil fertility, primarily through the management of the organic content of the soil through proper tillage, crop rotation, and manuring.

(2) Manuring

(A) Inclusion in organic plan

An organic plan shall contain terms and conditions that regulate the application of manure to crops.

(B) Application of manure

Such organic plan may provide for the application of raw manure only to—

- (i) any green manure crop;
- (ii) any perennial crop;
- (iii) any crop not for human consumption; and
- (iv) any crop for human consumption, if such crop is harvested after a reasonable period of time determined by the certifying agent to ensure the safety of such crop, after the most recent application of raw manure, but in no event shall such period be less than 60 days after such application.

(C) Contamination by manure

Such organic plan shall prohibit raw manure from being applied to any crop in a way that significantly contributes to water contamination by nitrates or bacteria.

(c) Livestock plan

An organic livestock plan shall contain provisions designed to foster the organic production of livestock consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(d) Mixed crop livestock production

An organic plan may encompass both the crop production and livestock production requirements in subsections (b) and (c) of this section if both activities are conducted by the same producer.

(e) Handling plan

An organic handling plan shall contain provisions designed to ensure that agricultural products that are sold or labeled as organically produced are produced and handled in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(f) Management of wild crops

An organic plan for the harvesting of wild crops shall—

- (1) designate the area from which the wild crop will be gathered or harvested;
- (2) include a 3 year history of the management of the area showing that no prohibited substances have been applied;
- (3) include a plan for the harvesting or gathering of the wild crops assuring that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to

the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop; and

- (4) include provisions that no prohibited substances will be applied by the producer.

(g) Limitation on content of plan

An organic plan shall not include any production or handling practices that are inconsistent with this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2114, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3943.)

§ 6514. Accreditation program

(a) In general

The Secretary shall establish and implement a program to accredit a governing State official, and any private person, that meets the requirements of this section as a certifying agent for the purpose of certifying a farm or handling operation as a certified organic farm or handling operation.

(b) Requirements

To be accredited as a certifying agent under this section, a governing State official or private person shall—

- (1) prepare and submit, to the Secretary, an application for such accreditation;
- (2) have sufficient expertise in organic farming and handling techniques as determined by the Secretary; and
- (3) comply with the requirements of this section and section 6515 of this title.

(c) Duration of designation

An accreditation made under this section shall be for a period of not to exceed 5 years, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and may be renewed.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2115, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3944.)

§ 6515. Requirements of certifying agents

(a) Ability to implement requirements

To be accredited as a certifying agent under section 6514 of this title, a governing State official or a person shall be able to fully implement the applicable organic certification program established under this chapter.

(b) Inspectors

Any certifying agent shall employ a sufficient number of inspectors to implement the applicable organic certification program established under this chapter, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) Recordkeeping

(1) Maintenance of records

Any certifying agent shall maintain all records concerning its activities under this chapter for a period of not less than 10 years.

(2) Access for Secretary

Any certifying agent shall allow representatives of the Secretary and the governing State official access to any and all records concerning the certifying agent's activities under this chapter.

(3) Transference of records

If any private person that was certified under this chapter is dissolved or loses its ac-