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RE: Anniversary Date

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the dates presented on the Oregon Tilth Certified Organic Certification Acknowledgement. There has been some confusion over the meaning of the Anniversary Date shown on the organic certificate. Please allow us to explain the meaning of this date and its relevance to you.

The purpose of the anniversary date is to indicate the date by which a certified operation is required to submit their renewal application. As required under NOP Instruction Document 2603, the Anniversary Date must be listed.

This anniversary date is **not** an expiration date, and has no bearing on the validity or accuracy of the certificate itself, or the operation's organic standing. As stated on the certificate, an operation's organic certification does not expire and is valid until surrendered, suspended, or revoked. This is per National Organic Program Regulations.

It is not necessary to reference the anniversary date when updating your files. The date that is important for you to reference is the **Certificate Issue Date**. The certificate should be considered valid and in good standing for at least one year from the issue date.

You may want to review Oregon Tilth's online Producer Search, which is updated regularly. The online producer search can be used as a mechanism to verify current certification of the operation. You can access that at www.tilth.org

Thank you for your attention to this and your understanding. We hope that this will reduce redundant work for both you and your supplier. If you still have any questions, please feel free to contact us directly for further information.

Sincerely,

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