
New Hampshire

Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food



August 23, 2023

Official Statement from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire on Organic Certification Services in New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (NHDAMF) and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) are reaching out to inform and gather feedback from the New Hampshire organic farming community on the future of organic certification services at NHDAMF.

NHDAMF is concerned with its ability to continue serving New Hampshire's organic farming community as an Accredited Certifying Agent (ACA) for the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP). Staffing constraints, an outdated fee structure, and increasing program standards led NHDAMF to seek NOFA-NH's in-kind assistance with collecting stakeholder feedback and identifying prospective solutions for organic producers in the Granite State, should the Department need to cease organic certification services.

The goal of this collaboration is to ensure continued, uninterrupted ACA services for New Hampshire's organic farmers and producers.

NHDAMF only certifies NH organic crops producers, having discontinued organic livestock, wild crops, and processing/handling scopes prior to the 2022 season. The Department currently certifies 66 operations. NHDAMF would need to upgrade their certification program and fee structure (which is set by the New Hampshire legislature) to assure continued, uninterrupted ACA services.

NHDAMF and NOFA-NH have identified the following possibilities for the future of organic certification services in New Hampshire:

1. NHDAMF continues to serve New Hampshire farmers as an ACA via increased legislative and state funding support, increased certification fees, and restructuring of the Division of Regulatory Services (DRS).
2. NHDAMF discontinues certification and collaborates with NOFA-NH and the NOP to assist farmers with transfer to another ACA.
3. NHDAMF discontinues certification and NOFA-NH assists a regionally-based ACA to certify New Hampshire organic farmers by opening a satellite office in New Hampshire.

NHDAMF and NOFA-NH are seeking stakeholder input so that we can best meet the needs of New Hampshire's organic farmers. A survey is forthcoming to help us understand your preferences for certification services. A webinar will be held on Thursday, August 31st from 6:00 – 7:00 PM to solicit live feedback from producers. [Please register for the webinar here.](#)

Thank you for your time and engagement. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Shawn Jasper, Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets & Food, NHDAMF

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Jasper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

Allen Wyman, Director, Division of Regulatory Services, NHDAMF

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Wyman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'A' at the beginning.

Julie Davenson, President of the Board of Directors, NOFA-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Davenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' at the beginning.

Nikki Kolb, Operations Director, NOFA-NH

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikki Kolb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'N' at the beginning.