



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 20, 2002

Mr. John W. Breitsman
President
Association of American Feed Control Officials
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9408

Dear Mr. Breitsman:

Thank you for the letter from you and your colleagues regarding whether the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Standards apply to pet food and feed for non-food producing companion animals.

I regret the delay in responding to your inquiry and appreciate the patience and understanding that you have displayed in waiting for our response.

The National Organic Standards (7 CFR Part 205) are applicable to pet and companion animal agricultural products to be sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group (s))." Effective October 21, 2002, all such products must be produced, handled, and labeled in accordance with the National Organic Standards by entities certified by USDA accredited certifying agents. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of those standards.

Thank you again for your letter, your patience, and your interest in organic agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Hawks".

Bill Hawks
Under Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Enclosure