



**You're invited to
Two Special Organic Events!
PCO Annual Meeting & All Organic Matters**

Dear PCO Member,

We have exciting news! PCO has teamed up with the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture to present “**All Organic Matters**” — a full-day of organic instruction on February 4, 2010, in conjunction with PASA’s Farming for the Future Conference at the Penn Stater Conference Center, University Park, PA.

PCO will also conduct our **PCO Annual Meeting** on the same day, immediately following the All Organic Matters conference. These are two events you won’t want to miss! We are offering them to you alongside of the PASA’s premier conference so that we can combine forces to bring you the best possible educational and networking opportunities.

This full-day All Organic Matters event will feature presentations on the ABC’s of organic certification, materials approved for organic production, organic food and farm policies, organic vegetable quality standards, rotational grazing and pasture management, organic food processing, how to prepare for inspections, and marketing organics in challenging economic times. PCO staff will present organic certification and standards updates and answer questions about USDA organic regulations.

The keynote address, “**The National Organic Program — Protecting Organic Integrity**,” will be presented by Miles McEvoy, newly appointed deputy administrator of the National Organic Program (NOP). Miles will give insights into how the organic program works, including priorities for 2010, current “hot topics” and enforcement procedures.

The annual meeting will begin at 5:05pm and will include presentation of the annual report, board elections, awards and recognitions. The annual meeting is a great place to meet up with other organic producers, bring up new ideas, ask questions of the PCO staff and learn more about the organic certification process.

Discount for PCO members

As a special incentive for PCO members to attend the All Organic Matters session, you will receive a \$25 rebate when you attend. First register with PASA and pay the \$65 tuition, then PCO will reimburse you \$25 on the day of the event.

**There is no cost to attend the Annual Meeting and it is open to all,
members and non-members.**

All Organic Matters Program Thursday, February 4th

9:00–9:15am

Welcome and Introductions

9:15–10:30am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. ABC's of Organic Certification
2. Organic Policy in the News: Hot Topics Impacting Organic Food and Farms

10:45am–12:00pm

Materials: What's Allowed and Prohibited in Organic Production For Pest, Disease and Fertility Management

12:00–1:00pm — Lunch break

1:00–1:45pm

KEYNOTE

The National Organic Program: Protecting Organic Integrity

2:00–3:15pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Quality & Packing Standards for Organic Vegetables
2. Rotational Grazing and Productive Pasture Management
3. Organic Food Processing

3:30–4:45pm

All Organic Matters Track CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Inspector Panel — How to Prepare and What to Expect at Your Inspection
2. Farmer/Producer Panel — Marketing Organics in Challenging Economic Times

4:45–5:00pm

Wrap-Up and Evaluations

5:05–6:20pm

PCO Annual Business Meeting and Awards



Keynote address:

The National Organic Program — Protecting Organic Integrity

Miles McEvoy, newly appointed deputy administrator of the USDA's National Organic Program previously led the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Organic Food Program for more than 20 years. Miles also helped establish the WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program in 1991 and was instrumental in launching the Food Alliance sustainable agriculture program.



ABC's of Organic Certification

Robert Yang, PCO Certification Program Director, along with the PCO Certification Team will answer your most frequently asked questions: Do I need a buffer? How does the cost share program work? What are the requirements for compost and manure? Do I have to use organic seed? Come find out the answers to these and other organic standards questions.



Hot Topics in the World of Organic Standards

Emily Brown Rosen, PCO Policy Director, will present relevant topics and take questions for discussion on issues such as pasture requirements for organic livestock, outdoor access for organic poultry, liquid fertilizer restrictions, compost and residue testing, unannounced inspections. Emily heads up the PCO Standards Committee, a volunteer group that helps develop organic standards policies. Serving on the Standards Committee is a great way to get involved in keeping organic standards strict and sensible.



Quality & Packing Standards for Organic Vegetable Production

Tony Ricci of PCO-certified Green Heron Farm, Three Springs, PA has been farming organically since 1984. He and his wife Rebecca co-own and operate their organic farm where they produce vegetables, herbs and berries for retail and wholesale markets in the

PCO Annual Meeting & All Organic Matters

Huntingdon and State College Areas. Tony will be speaking about the 'how-to' for packing organic produce.



Rotational Grazing & Productive Pasture Management

Troy Bishopp of Bishopp Family Farm will discuss how to manage a grazing system profitably. Troy, known as the "Grass Whisperer," believes in the power of a producer's management and using the synergy between rotational grazing, animal impacts, and "happy earthworms." Troy encourages attendees to bringing an open mind, lots of questions, and to be ready for some lively discussion.



Organic Food Processing

Al Johnson, an organic inspector who has been inspecting organic farms and processing plants for more than 20 years and has worked for a short time in the apple processing industry, will present an introduction for those interested in producing value added/processed products to their organic system plans. Al will go over the requirements for product composition and labeling, sourcing ingredients, sanitation and pest management practices.



How to Prepare for an Inspection

Bob Vernon, Amy Talarico, and Brian Magaro, seasoned organic inspectors, will discuss how producers can ensure that they have a good experience getting inspected each year. They will explain what type of paperwork and records inspectors look for and check, and will give tips on keeping records organized and readily available for the inspector to audit. All three inspectors have performed many organic inspections, including crops, livestock and processing, and each inspector will share unique perspectives to help make your inspection the best it can be.



Marketing Organics in Challenging Economic Times

Kim Tait of Tait Farm Foods, Tim Bowser of Elk Creek Cafe + Aleworks, and Jeff Taylor of Tuscarora Organic Growers Cooperative (TOG), will discuss opportunities for marketing organic products at a local level as well as how to connect farmers with markets. Kim Tait is owner of PCO-certified Tait Farm Foods, near State College, PA and runs a CSA, an on-farm store, and supplies local restaurants with produce. Tim Bowser manages the very "local" restaurant, Elk Creek Café + Ale works, where the majority of the menu items are made with local and organic food. Tim has been very involved in local and sustainable agriculture for the past 20 years and has worked directly with farmers on education, marketing and policy. Jeff Taylor is in his first season of being the General Manager of Tuscarora Organic Growers Cooperative (previously managing sales for TOG), which buys organic produce from regional organic farms and helps them distribute and market their produce.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All Organic Matters Pre-Conference

DATE/TIME: February 4, 2010, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

LOCATION: Penn Stater Conference Center, State College PA

COST: \$65, includes lunch at the Penn Stater. PCO members receive \$25 rebate.

TO REGISTER: Visit: www.pasafarming.org, or call 814-349-9856 ext 23

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 24, 2010

Space is limited, so register early. Participants receive free PCO materials lists, guidance sheets, copies of the National Organic Standards, and other information.

PCO Annual Meeting

DATE/TIME: February 4, 2010, 5:05 pm

COST: Free and open to all, whether PCO members or not

TO REGISTER: Contact the PCO office by phone, email, or fax: pco@paorganic.org, (p) 814-422-0251 (f) 814-422-0255

Dinner is available following the annual meeting, cost is \$32. Contact PASA at www.pasafarming.org or 814-329-9856 to register for the "Thursday Evening Winter Picnic Buffet"

For directions, information about the Penn Stater, or room reservations contact the Penn Stater at: 814-863-5000

PCO Annual Meeting & All Organic Matters

Register for free for the 2010 PCO Annual Meeting!

February 4, 2010 at 5:00 pm • Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center in State College, PA
PCO's Annual Meeting will be held at 5:05 pm immediately following the PCO All Organic Matters,
PASA pre-conference track. Visit www.pasafarming.org to register for the track.

Names of all attending
.....
.....

Business Name
.....

Address
.....

City

State

Zip
.....

Phone

Fax
.....

Email
.....

Each year at the Annual Meeting, PCO recognizes outstanding volunteers with a bountiful selection of items from the organic community. There are also door prizes for the roughly 100 certified organic farmers and their guests who attend. Please support PCO by choosing one of the following sponsorship and donation opportunities.

In addition to my registration, I would like to contribute the following for the meeting:

Sponsor Banner & Literature \$200 — Includes recognition in the meeting program, a displayed banner, and literature distributed at the PCO Annual meeting.

Yes, we would like to sponsor the PCO Annual Meeting.

Monetary Donation — A donation of \$100 (or more) towards the Annual Meeting includes recognition in the meeting program.

Yes, we would like to donate \$

Volunteer Gift Donation — Help PCO acknowledge outstanding volunteers and staff with a donation of items from the organic community. Eco friendly bags for the volunteers and recognized staff are especially needed.

Yes, we would like to donate (24)

Yes, we would like to donate (24)

Door Prizes — There are multiple drawings for the roughly 100 certified organic farmers and their guests who attend.

Yes, we would like to donate a door prize(s):

Please respond by January 18, 2010. Submit your form and company logo by fax, email, or mail.

PCO, 106 School Street, Suite 201, Spring Mills, PA 16875

www.paorganic.org email: pco@paorganic.org fax: 814-422-0255

Please contact PCO at 814-422-0251 with any questions. *Thank you for your support!*