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PCO Approved for **Regenerative Organic Certified™**

PCO is proud to announce that we are now approved by Regenerative Organic Alliance (ROA) to offer certification to the Regenerative Organic Certified™ (ROC™) program.

The certification process is slightly different from that of organic certification, in that all interested operations must request and submit an application directly through ROA. ROA does a review for completeness prior to passing along to PCO to complete the rest of the certification process (initial review, inspection and final certification decision). Based on the time of year and the timeline to review and inspect operations, unless you already have an application into ROA, we likely won't be able to inspect your operation until next year. If you are interested in this add-on certification, please indicate this on your 2023 Annual Update paperwork.

The ROC™ program consists of three pillars: Soil Health & Land Management, Animal Welfare, and Farmer & Worker Fairness. ROC has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Each requires a different number and scope of regenerative organic practices to be used. Operations interested in the ROC™ program can request certification of the pillars and levels that meet you where you are today. The baseline requirement is organic certification; meaning that in order to achieve ROC, an operation must first hold USDA organic certification or an international equivalent formally recognized by the National Organic Program (NOP). The ROC™ program is also based on continuous improvement so there is the expectation that over time operations are "leveling up" their certification.

You can find more information on PCO's ROC™ webpage, <https://paorganic.org/certification/get-started/regenerative-organic-certified/>, including fee information and how to request an application. Additionally, ROA's website, www.regenorganic.org, is a wealth of information, including program standards, applications and other resource documents/forms. You may also contact the PCO office for more information at 814-422-0251.

Best,

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