

December 5, 2005



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Dear CCOF Producer,

The Wild Farm Alliance (WFA) and California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) are pleased to send you *Biodiversity Conservation: An Organic Farmer's Guide*. CCOF embraces the concept of biodiversity conservation. CCOF's magazine *Certified Organic* will keep you up to date on this issue. For now, let the guide be a helpful resource for you to use and reflect on for streamlining and diversifying your farming practices.

This is an important step forward for organic farming, organic standards, WFA and CCOF. Every organic producer in the country is receiving this guide thanks to funds from the Organic Farming Research Foundation and others. The guide was created to improve the impact of organic farming on natural systems and to address biodiversity issues recently amended into the National Organic Standards Board's (NOSB) Organic System Plan (OSP).

The NOSB recognized the importance of clarifying the intent and requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) Rule regarding biodiversity. The NOP Rule addresses biodiversity in the preamble, definitions, and requirements of natural resources, crop rotation, crop pests, water contamination, livestock conditions and health, and wild crop harvesting. The enclosed guide highlights the Rule, describes core biodiversity principles, addresses each of the biodiversity questions in the NOSB's OSP, and offers numerous resources.

A continuum of practices that support the natural resources of organic farms and their surrounding areas is given. These are similar to the continuum of 'IPM' practices. On one end are piece-meal methods, and on the other is a holistic approach with self-sustaining natural enemy insects, or in the case of natural resources, self-sustaining native plants and animals, and ecosystem processes on the farm.

Please return the enclosed postcard so that we can understand and address your needs.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Baumgartner, WFA Director

& Peggy Miars, CCOF Executive Director