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Attention Producer and Livestock Clients

The USDA National Organic Program has issued a notification regarding approval of liquid nitrogen fertilizers and other inputs for use in organic production.

The USDA no longer has confidence that Marizyme™ and Agrolizer™ products manufactured by Port Organic, Ltd, meet the requirements for use under the National Organic Program. These products have also been delisted by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) effective February 17, 2009.

QAI is requiring our clients to immediately discontinue the use of these two fertilizers until such time they are re-evaluated and deemed compliant in accordance with the new requirements laid out by the USDA.

The USDA has stated **all** high nitrogen liquid fertilizers (with a nitrogen analysis greater than three percent) must be approved through an independent 3rd party inspection of the fertilizer manufacturer before October 1, 2009.

Clients wishing to continue the use of these liquid nitrogen products are urged to contact the manufacturer of each product and direct them to OMRI. Please see their press release referenced below for contact information. OMRI has been a reputable resource for the verification of materials used in the organic industry for many years and QAI plans to continue our valued partnership to approve materials used by our clients.

Other types of inputs may also require 3rd party verification. The USDA has stated brand name products, including but not limited to high risk inputs such as liquid fertilizers, will require an inspection to verify compliance. QAI is part of a team of organic certifiers and other industry members working together to develop a policy that would increase surveillance of input manufacturers.

As a QAI client, we verify compliance of inputs used by your operation during your annual inspection. This year QAI will be requesting documents which verify your material manufacturers have met the new inspection requirements laid out by the USDA.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Certification Project Manager.

Additional information can be found at:

- USDA National Organic Program Notification
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5075469&acct=nopgeninfo>
- OMRI Press Release
http://omri.org/OMRI_PR.html
- Organic Trade Association's Public Statement on Liquid Fertilizer
<http://www.ota.com/news/breaking/liquidfertilizer.html>