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Court leaves organic rules in place until rulemaking next year

On Thursday, June 9, the U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine, entered a final judgment in the Harvey v. Veneman case that leaves the existing rules in place until replaced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sometime next year. The court authorized USDA to allow products under the current rules to be on the market until June 2007. The terms of the final judgment were submitted and agreed to by the plaintiff and USDA. The terms provide that USDA shall undertake rulemakings to alter the National Organic Program to accommodate the decision of the federal appellate court first announced in January 2005 and to publish the changes by early June 2006. The district court also required that any new rules become fully enforceable within two years, by June 9, 2007.

QAI will continue to keep you apprised of updates/details as they become available to us.