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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

405 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, Nevada 89431  
Telephone (775) 353-3600 Fax (775) 353-3638  
Website: <http://www.agri.nv.gov>

April 30, 2012

Dear Organic Stakeholder,

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is seeking input from the organic industry concerning the NDA Organic Certification Program in order to chart a future course for the program which best satisfies the needs of our current and potential clientele. Additionally, the Nevada Organic Advisory Council is recruiting new members to fill two council vacancies.

The Nevada Organic Advisory Council will host a public meeting on May 11, 2012 at the NDA Sparks office in order to provide a forum for discussion concerning the organic certification program, and you are invited to attend (agenda attached). We want to hear what's working and what's not from our State's organic producers, organic handlers/processors, and organic consumers. Additionally, the Department would like to know what this group feels is the best direction for the Department's organic programs in the future. For those not able to attend the meeting, public comment may be submitted by mail or email, and will be addressed and considered during the May 11 meeting. Public comment may be submitted to the Sparks office at 405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sparks NV 89431, or to [s\\_marty@agri.state.nv.us](mailto:s_marty@agri.state.nv.us). Please consider offering your opinion, as the Department is refocusing its resources and needs to hear from you in order to best allocate its efforts. The Department has also created a brief survey, which is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z9BFHS3>, and may be completed in addition to or in lieu of attending the meeting or submitting public comment for the meeting.

The Nevada Organic Advisory Council is charged with advising the Director and the State Board of Agriculture concerning the provision of information and educational services to the public and to producers and handlers of organic agricultural products. Additionally, the council directly provides information and educational services to the public and to producers and handlers of organic agricultural products. The council consists of six members, with current openings for one organic producer or handler, and one organic industry representative. The term is two years, and council members are expected to attend four meetings annually. Interested parties may contact the Department directly, attend the May 11 meeting, or provide written notice of interest to be addressed during the meeting. For more information concerning the Nevada Organic Advisory Council, please contact Steve Marty at 775-353-3773 or [s\\_marty@agri.state.nv.us](mailto:s_marty@agri.state.nv.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Marty".

Steve Marty  
Agriculturist IV  
Nevada Department of Agriculture

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**  
**405 South 21<sup>st</sup> St.**  
**Sparks NV 89431**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**of the**  
**NEVADA ORGANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Nevada Organic Advisory Council will conduct a public meeting on **Friday, May 11, 2012 at 1:00 PM** in the conference room of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 South 21<sup>st</sup> St. Sparks NV 89431. More information can be obtained and public comment may be submitted by calling (775) 353-3773.

Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda at the discretion of the chairperson.

**AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER 1:00 P.M.**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **INTRODUCTIONS**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**  
**Please state your name for the record.** This item reserved for subject matter not on the agenda. Topics introduced in this portion of the meeting will not be acted upon but may be included as an agenda item for follow-up action at a future Organic Advisory Council (OAC) meeting. **Please keep comments to a maximum of 5 minutes.**
7. **OLD BUSINESS:**  
A) Correspondence and Announcements (**Informational**)
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**  
A) Provide a forum for public review of the Nevada Department of Agriculture Organic Certification Program and provide recommendations and/or guidance concerning the program's future direction. (**Action**)  
B) Overview of Nevada Department of Agriculture budget process, followed by discussion and action concerning potential sources of revenue for council activities. (**Action**)  
C) Discussion and action concerning recruitment for the Nevada Organic Advisory Council organic producer and organic industry representative position vacancies. (**Action**)
9. **ADJOURN**

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please call Dawn Rafferty at the Nevada Department of Agriculture, 775-353-3669 as soon as possible.