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AUS-QUAL Pty Ltd Organic Program Update – February 2009

AUS-QUAL has been certifying to the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce for two years. During that time, the program has steadily grown. Supporting documentation and systems have been enhanced including simplifying the systems for smaller businesses.

AUS-QUAL's strengths lie with its experience in compliance, particularly within the agricultural and food processing sectors. Focus on customer service and ability to audit multiple programs creates efficiencies resulting in savings in both time and money to the certified business. AUS-QUAL does not charge levies for Organic Product nor for the use of the AUS-QUAL Organic Certification Mark.

There is increasing recognition of the AUS-QUAL Organic Certification Mark within the market place.

USDA National Organic Program

AUS-QUAL's application for accreditation as a certifying agent to perform certification activities on behalf of USDA under the National Organic Program (NOP) has been approved.

AUS-QUAL is in a position to certify businesses to the NOP standards. This allows the certified business to export organic products to the United States of America. The scope includes crops, livestock, wild crops and handling operations pursuant to the provisions of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 as amended (7U.S.C. 6501 *et seq*), and the NOP Final Rule (7 CFR Part 205).

NOP joins a suite of services provided by AUS-QUAL including quality management systems, food safety systems and product certification services.

Producers and Processors interested in attaining certification are encouraged to contact AUS-QUAL (1800 630 890) for a quote on services and further information.

Organic Information Kit

AUS-QUAL has recently updated the Organic Information Kit which is available on CD. The Information Kit includes Fact Sheets, Guidance Documents and Templates that are required for certification. The Information Kit will soon also be available from the AUS-QUAL web site. If you require a copy of the Information Kit on CD, please contact AUS-QUAL on 1800 630 890. There is no charge for the Information Kit on CD.

The major change with the Information Kit is its improved suitability for smaller businesses.

Update for export to Taiwan

Taiwan has a zero tolerance for the presence of contaminants in organic produce as from 29 January 2009. If you are exporting to Taiwan, please ensure that you read the Fact Sheet – Exporting to Japan and Taiwan. The Fact Sheet is contained within the Organic Information Kit or is available by request from the AUS-QUAL office.

Enquiries for Organic Certification

Enquiries for Organic Certification can be directed to AUS-QUAL on 1800 630 890. Andrew Brown (Program Coordinator) may be contacted directly on 07 3361 9219 or mobile 0402 843 854