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«salutation» «firstname» «surname» «operation_name» «address» «address1» «city» «state» «pocode»

RE: NOTIFICATION OF ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

We wish to advise that our property is certified organic / biodynamic under the national certification program operated by Australian Certified Organic Pty Ltd (ACO), the certification subsidiary of the Biological Farmers of Australia Co-op (BFA).

This certification carries certain requirements, and vigilance to maintain this status is essential. It is now a directive of ACO for us to inform our neighbours and any local authorities of our certification and how their activities could put this certification in jeopardy.

It is not our intention to cause any offence; indeed we wish to have a good relationship with all. However, we realise that there are areas where problems could arise.

Organic farming is a modern method of agriculture without the use of highly soluble fertilisers or synthetic agrichemical sprays (pesticides, weedicides, fungicides etc). No GMO crops, including contamination from potential pollen drift, are allowed within a certified organic system. Therefore, any possible spray drift and the planting of GMO crops that can cross-pollinate with conventional and organic crops and weed species are of a serious concern to us in maintaining our certification. Contamination has in the past led to some properties and/or crops being decertified.

We ask in the case of ground spraying that particular attention be taken to wind direction and that spraying only takes place when the wind would take drift away from our property. In the case of any aerial spraying with its greater air turbulence, extreme caution is required by the operator to reduce the risk of overspray. We would be grateful for your cooperation in these activities. ACO asks in this instance for you to advise us of your intention prior to the spraying operation, as is now required in many sectors as a matter of course. This will enable us to work out a mutually acceptable plan.

The same risks to our certification also apply to possible cross-pollination of our crops with pollen from GMO crops. I would point out that if steps to eliminate spray drift and or GMO drift affecting our property are not taken and problems with certification occur, ACO would have no alternative but to either down grade or terminate our certification. If this happened, our livelihood would be at stake and further action would need to be taken.

We trust you understand the situation and the seriousness of possible contamination from spray drift and GMO crops. As stated, it is not our intention to cause offence and we trust we can work together amicably.

Regards

<<Your Name>>

<<Your Position and/or Operation Name>>