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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Certified Organic Co-sponsors Organic Inspector Trainings

Opportunities for Potential and Experienced Organic Inspectors at Upcoming State College Crop, Livestock, and Advanced Inspection Courses

Prospective organic inspectors and seasoned inspectors alike will gather at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA from March 31- April 6th to partake in upcoming Advanced Organic Inspection, Organic Livestock Inspection, and Organic Crop Inspection Trainings cosponsored by the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) and Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO). The Advanced Organic Inspector training includes two days (March 31 – April 1) of classroom instruction with a focus on unannounced inspections and pesticide residue testing, as well as a field trip and demonstration of sampling for pesticide residues in the field. The Advanced training is for inspectors that have already completed basic training are looking to continue their education. The Livestock and Crop trainings run concurrently (April 2- April 6) and each include classroom instruction and a field trip to a local, PCO-certified organic dairy or a small grains/vegetable operation where attendees will perform a mock inspection.

Upon successful completion of the Basic Inspection Trainings, participants are one step closer to having the credentials necessary for independently contracting as an Organic Inspector with a certifying agency, such as Pennsylvania Certified Organic or Oregon Tilth Certified Organic.

REGISTRATION:

All registration is through the IOIA office. If you have any questions, please phone/fax IOIA: (406) 436-2031, or email: ioia@ioia.net. Application forms and information can also be downloaded from the IOIA website at www.ioia.net. **Please note that the same registration form is used for the Livestock and Crop Trainings.** If you are interested in the IOIA/PCO Advanced Inspector Training on March 31-April 1, please use a separate application form for that training.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR BASIC CROP AND LIVESTOCK TRAININGS IS FEBRUARY 18, 2012*.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE ADVANCED TRAINING IS FEBRUARY 24, 2012*.

**Applications are accepted beyond the deadline, but there is a late fee - \$75 for the Basic courses and \$25 for the Advanced.*

Pennsylvania Certified Organic is a non-profit organization that educates and certifies organic growers and handlers in Pennsylvania and the surrounding region. PCO certifies more than 500 farming and food production operations, including produce, field crops, herbs, wild crops, dairy products, poultry products, value-added products, livestock, mushrooms, maple, snack foods, coffee, tea, cosmetics, and more.

PCO is accredited by the USDA and offers certification to the USDA, Canadian and European Union organic programs.

To learn more about PCO or to apply for organic certification, call 814-422-0251 or visit our website at www.paorganic.org.

