

From the 5/26/04 Transcript
Secretary Ann Veneman's statement
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"One other issue that has been in the press quite extensively in the last week or so has been the issue of our organic standards having been, the Agricultural Marketing Service has put out a Statement of Clarification.

"There has been a tremendous amount of interest in this, of concern about what it does. I think that it's important to recognize they we're acting in good faith trying to clarify some of the issues that were coming out of the actual implementation of this.

"But because there is so much concern about it, I have directed the Agriculture Marketing Service to withdraw the Statement of Clarification and now to work with the National Organic Advisory Board and the industry to determine the best solutions to the issues that have been raised.

"Again, this is an issue that has come up in the media over the past couple days, and I just wanted to make sure that people on today's call understood that we are taking action to rescind what AMS had done. And they will now work with the Organic Standards Board to correct the issues that they had identified that needed the clarifying statement.