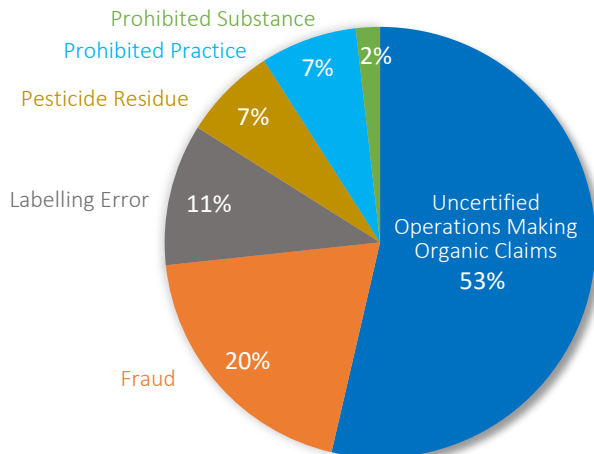




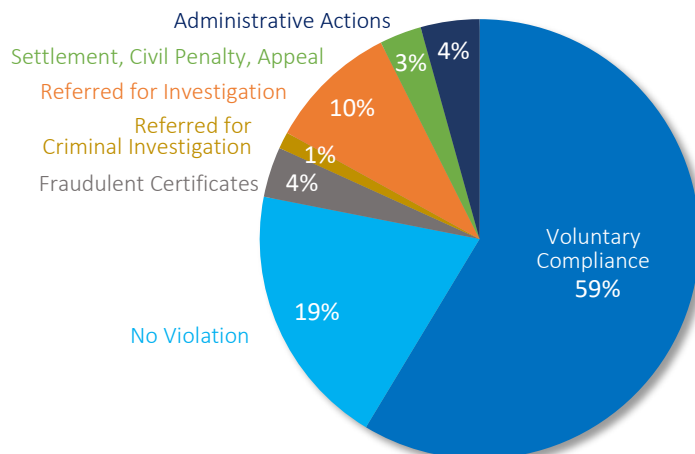
Organic Enforcement Quarterly Update

National Organic Program (NOP) Activities | Fiscal Year 2022, First Quarter

442 Cases in Progress
As of 12/31/2021



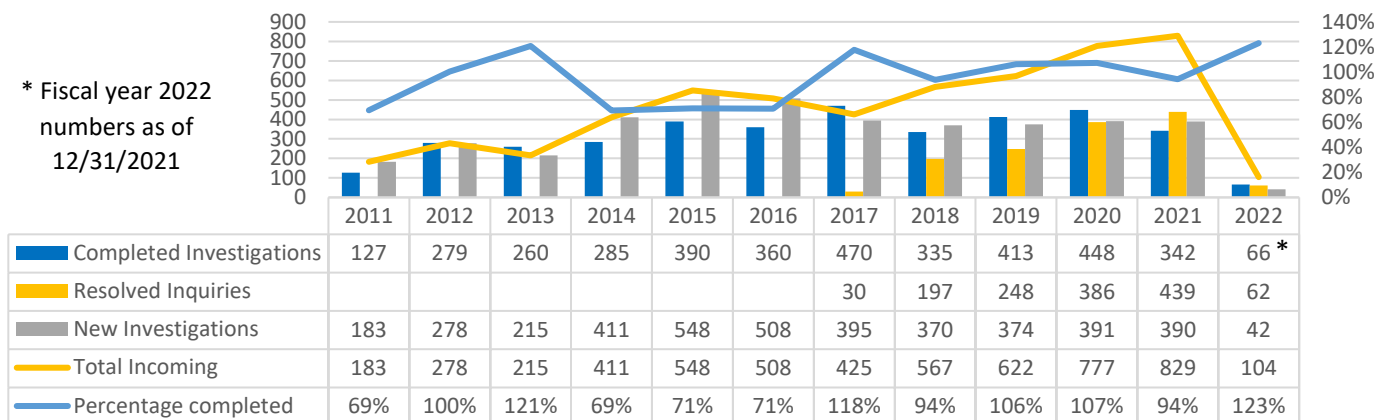
324 Closed Cases by Outcome
12 Months ending 12/31/2021



Cases in Progress are based on allegations, complaints, and surveillance, and are not in themselves proof of wrongdoing. **Administrative Actions** are warnings/notices to businesses, often uncertified, and are critical in establishing that violators are aware of the rules, to support future enforcement action.

Investigations & Inquiries by Fiscal Year

* Fiscal year 2022 numbers as of 12/31/2021



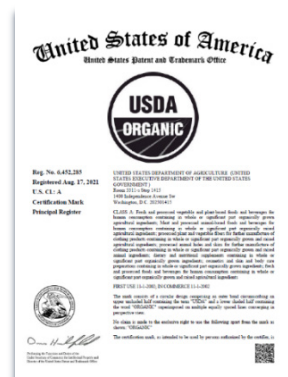
Trademark of USDA Organic Seal Creates New Enforcement Tools

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has granted the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) final trademark approval for the USDA organic seal. This key milestone increases law enforcement authority to penalize those who attempt to misuse the organic seal.

With official Trademark protection, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center may seize and destroy shipments when fraudulent claims are found to have been made—significantly raising the risk and cost of crime. In the coming months NOP will work with our accredited certifiers and federal enforcement partners to begin using this new authority to better safeguard the integrity of the organic seal and deter fraudulent activities involving the organic seal. Watch for details this spring. This success is a direct outcome of the collaborative work of the Organic Agricultural Product Imports Interagency Working Group, established by the 2018 Farm Bill.

Learn more about the USDA National Organic Program at www.ams.usda.gov/Organic.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



U.S. Patent and Trademark Office certification officially recognizes the USDA Organic Seal as a trademark.