



# CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release:

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## CCOF Supports West Nile Spraying Alternatives

9/1/05 - **CCOF believes that mandated spraying is the wrong way to contain the deadly West Nile Virus.** Not only have large scale chemical applications caused more problems than they have purported to correct in the past, but never has a pesticide eliminated a native pest anywhere in the world. **CCOF strongly encourages the development of multi-year policies that utilize physical, biological, and cultural controls for long range management of this truly important public health issue.** Examples include elimination of standing water, predator habitat, and timely use of readily available materials such as *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis* which are effective, completely non-toxic to humans and wildlife, and acceptable for use on organic farms. This approach would better protect people from the virus without relying on harmful chemicals that have numerous side affects to humans, wildlife, and organic farmers.

CCOF, a nonprofit organization formed by a group of grassroots activist farmers, is one of the oldest and largest organic certifiers in North America. CCOF's purpose is to promote and support organic agriculture in California and elsewhere through:

- A premier organic certification program for growers, processors, handlers, and retailers.
- Programs to increase awareness of and demand for certified organic products and to expand public support for organic agriculture.
- Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.

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