ORGANIC

Organic Farming

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SECTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Why Organic?

Organic farming focuses on creating healthy, resilient farm ecosystems. Instead of relying on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, organic farmers build soil fertility, manage pests naturally, and maintain productivity through thoughtful practices. Techniques like crop rotation, cover crops, natural pest control, and planting diverse crops all work together to treat the farm as a connected ecosystem.

Organic farming itself is different from organic certification. Certification is the official USDA process that verifies a farm follows national organic standards, keeps detailed records, and passes annual inspections. Some farmers use organic methods without certification, while others seek the USDA Organic label to access certain markets or assure consumers. Simply put, **organic farming is the *practice,* and organic certification is the *proof***.

Farmers choose organic farming for many reasons. Some aim to protect the environment. Others are drawn by market demand and higher prices. Many are motivated by personal or community values, like promoting health, sustainability, and transparency.

Understanding Organic Rules

The United States has clear, legally defined rules for how organic crops and livestock are grown. The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) publishes and maintains these standards, which are detailed guidelines designed to protect the integrity of the organic label.

For crops, that means no synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Farmers must build soil fertility through natural methods like composting, cover cropping, and crop rotation. Seeds must be organic when available, and every input used – fertilizers, weed treatments, and pest controls – must be approved for organic production.

The **organic standards for livestock** focus on animal welfare and living conditions. Animals must be fed 100% organic feed and have access to certified organic pastures and outdoor spaces, managed without any synthetic inputs. Ruminants must eat a certain amount of their diet as fresh pasture or hay. Organic livestock can't be treated with antibiotics, hormones, or synthetic antiparasitics. This doesn't mean that organic farmers leave those conditions untreated; sick animals must be treated humanely with appropriate medications, even if doing so means they lose their organic status.

Organic certification for crops and livestock requires detailed and comprehensive recordkeeping, annual inspections, and the development of an Organic System Plan (OSP) that lays out exactly how the farmer meets every rule and requirement. At every step, from soil to sale, a farmer must be able to document how they maintain organic integrity.

Here are some resources that might be helpful in transitioning your farm to organic:

- Excellent collection of dozens of good resources for organic rules and recordkeeping: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/organic-records
- https://carolinafarmstewards.org/resources/organic-certification-and-production-guide/
- Workbook with great info for transitioning to organic: https://www.sare.org/resources/organic-transition/

How to Get Started

Find Resources and Support

Michigan's Transition to Organic Partnership Program offers many supports for farmers shifting to organic, including mentors, events and/or resources.

Transition Your Land to Organic Management

Any farmer can use organic practices, but that's only the first step toward certification. Before contacting a certifier, it's important to understand your land's history and how certification fits into your business plan.

To be certified organic, your land must be free of prohibited inputs like synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and GMO seeds for at least three years. If you've used those inputs recently, you'll need to farm organically for a three-year transition period before becoming eligible. Some certifiers even offer "transitional" programs to recognize farms working toward full certification.

If you've managed your land for less than three years, you can still qualify by verifying its history. Ask the previous owner or manager to sign a land use affidavit confirming that only organic-approved inputs were used.

Assess Your Needs

Farmers learning about organic soil management at a Transition to Organic Partnership Program event

Just as your land must be ready for certification, you need to be ready too. Organic certification isn't the right fit for everyone: it comes with paperwork, recordkeeping, and costs. In most cases, you can't market your products as "organic" without certification, which protects the integrity of the USDA Organic seal.

Organic Exempt

The one exception is for farms earning less than $5,000 a year in organic sales. These farms can use the word "organic" if they follow all USDA rules, but they can't use the official seal.

What label is right for my markets?

Smaller farms that sell directly to customers (through farmers markets, CSAs, or farm stands) might skip certification because they can build trust through personal relationships. But for farms that want to sell to wholesalers, grocery stores, schools, or food hubs, certification is a valuable credential. It gives buyers confidence when they can't meet the farmer in person.

Certification Steps

Choose a Certifier

Each certifier has their own seal, in addition to the USDA Organic seal shown at the top left of this page

Once you are ready, the first step is to **choose an accredited certifying agency** (public or private) to work with. An organic certification agency is a third-party organization, accredited by the USDA National Organic Program, that verifies a farm complies with organic standards. It does this by reviewing applications, conducting on-site inspections, and issuing certifications.

Complete an Organic System Plan and Submit Paperwork

Once you have chosen a certifier, **you will use their templates** to complete an Organic System Plan (OSP); this is a detailed description of how your operation meets organic requirements. The OSP covers everything from seed sourcing and soil management to animal welfare, pest control, and recordkeeping. Different certifiers have slightly different formats for putting together the OSP, so make sure to review the templates your certifier provides. Most certifiers working in Michigan require applicants to submit paperwork between January and April. You will also pay an application fee and a deposit towards your inspection costs.

You can use the OSP Template from your certifier or use one of the USDA templates below:

- OSP Template – Organic Production (docx)
- OSP Template – Crop Production (docx)
- OSP Template – Livestock Production (docx)

Certification Inspection

After you submit your application, a certification inspector visits your farm to verify that your practices match your plan. The certifier reviews the inspection report, and if everything checks out, you're approved to market your products as USDA Certified Organic. Inspectors will usually want to visit your farm while it's in production season, in order to observe your methods and processes. Depending on when you submit your application and when your inspector visits, it usually takes 3-6 months from application to certification. When an inspector visits your farm, you should be prepared to do the following steps and answer the following questions:

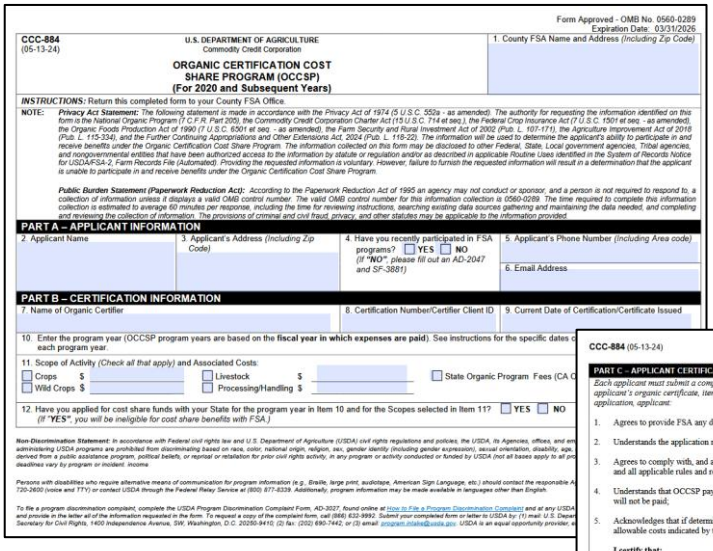
- Provide a tour of your farm, in which you show that your field history and maps in the OSP match your current plantings, demonstrate your storage of allowable pesticides, your livestock housing and pasture access, and so forth
- Review your OSP and any changes or updates in the case of a renewal inspection
- Show the inspector your records tracking seed and input purchases, harvests, and sales. Be prepared to show receipts.
- Walk the inspector through crop production from "seed to sale" in which you describe how a recently harvested crop moved from seed to field to harvest, with dates, locations and records
- In the case of a "split operation" in which some products are organic and some conventional, they will review and verify your processes to keep organic and non-organic inputs and products separate
- Inspectors will also tour the farm, verify storage and equipment areas, and look for consistency between what's on paper and what's happening in the field.
- A well-organized recordkeeping system and honest communication make the inspection smooth. Remember: they're not looking for perfection, they're looking for integrity and continuous improvement.

Renew Annually

You must renew your certification each year; this means updating your records, having an annual inspection, and paying your inspection fees.

Cost Share Funds lower costs to certify

While there are costs involved, programs like the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) can reimburse 75% of certification fees, up to $750. It is typically only a 2-page form, but it takes time and organization to send proof of payment and certification. OCCSP opens doors to new markets, higher premiums, and a trusted reputation for integrity and sustainability. Once you have completed the initial OSP, annual renewal and record maintenance is easier.



Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0289
Expiration Date: 03/31/2026

CCC-884 (05-13-24)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM (OCCSP)
(For 2020 and Subsequent Years)

1. County FSA Name and Address *(Including Zip Code)*

INSTRUCTIONS: Return this completed form to your County FSA Office.

NOTE: ***Privacy Act Statement:*** *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the National Organic Program (7 C.F.R. Part 205), the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq. - as amended), the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq. - as amended), the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171), the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), and the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22). The information will be used to determine the applicant's ability to participate in and receive benefits under the Organic Certification Cost Share Program. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination that the applicant is unable to participate in and receive benefits under the Organic Certification Cost Share Program.*

Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act): *According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0289. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.*

PART A – APPLICANT INFORMATION

2. Applicant Name | 3. Applicant's Address *(Including Zip Code)* | 4. Have you recently participated in FSA programs? ☐ YES ☐ NO *(If "NO", please fill out an AD-2047 and SF-3881)* | 5. Applicant's Phone Number *(Including Area code)* | 6. Email Address

PART B – CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

7. Name of Organic Certifier | 8. Certification Number/Certifier Client ID | 9. Current Date of Certification/Certificate Issued

10. Enter the program year (OCCSP program years are based on the **fiscal year in which expenses are paid**). See instructions for the specific dates c... each program year.

11. Scope of Activity *(Check all that apply)* and Associated Costs:
☐ Crops $ ☐ Livestock $ ☐ State Organic Program Fees (CA O...
☐ Wild Crops $ ☐ Processing/Handling $

12. Have you applied for cost share funds with your State for the program year in Item 10 and for the Scopes selected in Item 11? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(If "YES", you will be ineligible for cost share benefits with FSA.)

Non-Discrimination Statement: *In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and em... administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age,... derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all pro... deadlines vary by program or incident. Income...*

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible A... 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA... and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Depart... Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, e...

CCC-884 (05-13-24) Page **2** of **2**

PART C – APPLICANT CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Each applicant must submit a complete application to an FSA county office to be eligible to receive program benefits. A complete application includes form CCC-884, a copy of the applicant's organic certificate, itemized documentation of certification expenses paid by the applicant, and forms AD-2047 and SF-3881 if not previously filed with FSA. By signing this application, applicant:

1. Agrees to provide FSA any documentation required to determine eligibility and to verify and support all information provided, including applicant's organic certificate;
2. Understands the application may be disapproved if the applicant fails to provide a complete application or any information requested by FSA;
3. Agrees to comply with, and acknowledges the applicant is subject to, all provisions of OCCSP as published in the Notice of Funds Availability published in the Federal Register, and all applicable rules and regulations;
4. Understands that OCCSP payments are provided on a first come, first served basis until all available funds are obligated, and applications received after all funds are obligated will not be paid;
5. Acknowledges that if determined eligible and funding is available, the applicant's certification cost may be adjusted from the amount entered in Item 11 to reflect eligible allowable costs indicated by the documentation submitted to support the application.

I certify that:

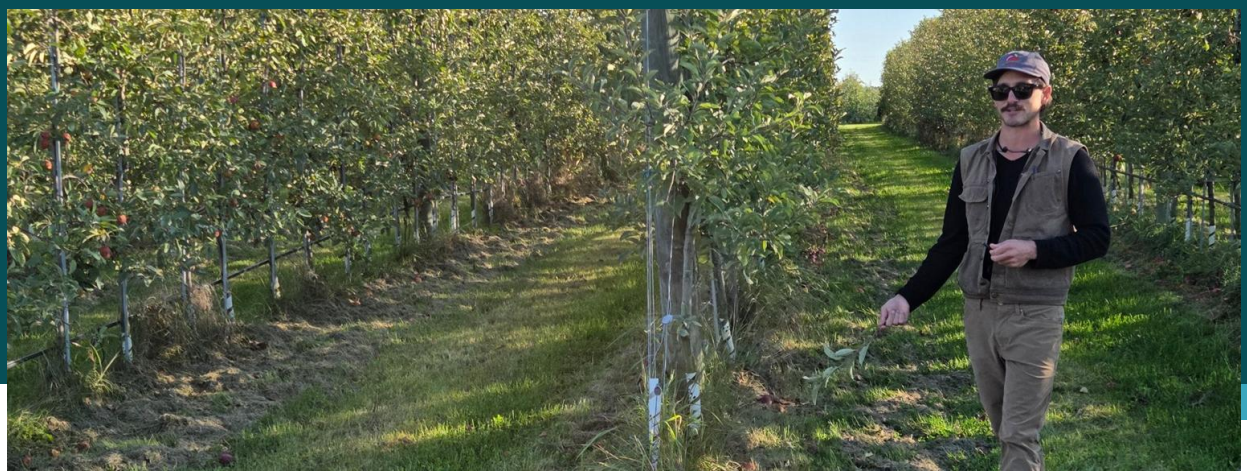
1. The above information provided by me or my legal representative is true and correct.
2. I understand that failure to provide true and correct information may result in the invalidation of this application, a determination of noncompliance or ineligibility, or other remedies or sanctions.
3. I understand that I may not receive duplicate benefits for the same scope of activity and program year from both a State Agency and FSA. If it is determined that I have received duplicate benefits, I have no right to retain those payments.

13. Applicant's Signature *(By)* | 14. Title/Relationship of the Individual Signing in the Representative Capacity | 15. Date *(MM/DD/YYYY)*

PART D – CCC REPRESENTATIVE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL

16A. CCC Representative's Signature *(or Designee)* | 16B. Title of Representative or Designee | 17. Action: ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED | 18. Date *(MM/DD/YYYY)*

The USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Program paperwork should not be a barrier for most organic farmers. It requires only the simple 2-page form shown here and sending in your organic certificate and proof of payment.



Kyle Rasch of Third Leaf Farm near Greenville transitioned the family apple orchard to organic over several years, by transitioning a few blocks each year

SECTION 1

Organic Crops

Primary Considerations

Success in organic crop production depends on designing a resilient, ecologically balanced system that meets certification standards and keeps plants thriving naturally. Planning and observation is as important as planting and harvest. Here are the core considerations:

Soil health and fertility

Build fertility through compost, green manures, and cover crops rather than synthetic fertilizers. Maintain soil structure by avoiding over tilling, preventing erosion, and feeding the microbial life that drives nutrient cycling. Avoid using synthetic fertilizers or amendments.

Crop rotation and diversity

Plan rotations that prevent pest and disease buildup, balance nutrient demand, and improve soil health. Mixing annuals, perennials, and cover crops adds resilience to the system. Avoid monocultures or planting the same annual crop year after year.

Weed, pest, and disease prevention and management

Focus on prevention through cultural and mechanical strategies like strategic cultivation, mulching, building habitat for beneficial insects, and maintaining healthy, stress-free plants. Chemical interventions are only allowed if they're on the National List of approved substances and may need to be justified to your certifier.

Seed, plant, and input selection

Use organic seed whenever available, and document any exceptions when organic seeds are not commercially available. Purchased starts must also be certified organic, or produced organically when commercial alternatives are not available. All inputs (fertilizers, soil amendments, pest controls) must be approved for organic production.

Water management

Use irrigation responsibly to prevent runoff and contamination. Efficient water use and protection of nearby waterways are integral to organic integrity.

Recordkeeping and traceability

Maintain detailed records of all inputs, field activities, harvests, and sales. Inspectors rely on this documentation to verify compliance and organic integrity. Your certifier will have forms or you can use the **USDA Documentation Forms for Organic Crop Producers**. You can also create your own system or use an app such as Tend, **CogPro** or **FarmBrite**.

Buffer zones and contamination prevention

Establish buffers between organic and non-organic fields to prevent drift or contamination from neighboring farms or conventional practices. You may want to list your land as organic through **DriftWatch**.

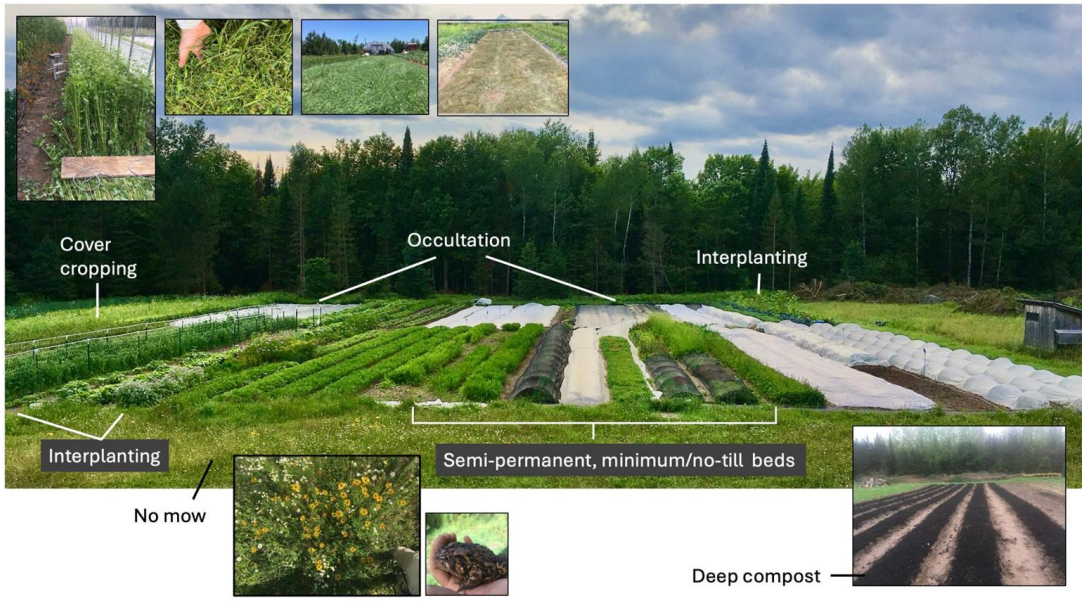
Getting Started with Organic Crop Production

1. Review the organic rules for crops

Begin by reviewing the **rules for organic crop production** or this detailed **Guide for Organic Crop Producers**. If you have any questions, reach out to your certifier.

2. Develop a land history

Begin by reviewing the land's management history. Organic certification requires that no prohibited substances have been used for the past three years. Gather any past records of fertilizer or pesticide use, and identify field boundaries and buffer areas. If you have managed the land for less than three years, contact prior managers to inquire about use of synthetic inputs. To certify without the 3-year transition, you or a previous landowner can fill out a Land Use History Verification (**page 2 of this document)** to show that the land has not had applications of prohibited substances.



Laura Brosius of Full Plate Farm in Michigan's Upper Peninsula created this infographic to show how she manages her soil organically.

3. Test and build soil

Conduct soil tests to assess nutrient levels, pH, and organic matter. Develop a fertility plan centered on compost, cover crops, and crop rotation.

4. Develop a crop rotation plan

Choose crops suited to your soil and climate, and design a **crop rotation** that prevents pest buildup and maintains fertility. Cover crops, green manures, and nitrogen-fixing legumes build soil health.

5. Source organic seed and plants

Purchase certified organic seed whenever available, and document any exceptions due to lack of commercial availability by checking 3 sources and keeping records of your seed search. Source certified organic plant materials, like transplants or bare-root trees whenever possible. If not possible, harvests from those plants will not be organic until they've been grown organically for 3 years.

6. Source organic inputs

Confirm that all soil amendments, fertilizers, and pest controls are approved for organic use. You can check the Organic Materials Review Institute for their **OMRI list,** use the **OMRI search** or use your certifier's database. Watch for the OMRI seal - it lets you know that a product is allowed by all certification agencies. Without the OMRI seal, you need to contact your certifier before using a product the first time. If it is a commonly-used product, such as Morgan's 101 potting soil, they will already know it is allowed. If it is less common, they typically will need 2 or 3 days to contact the supplier or they will ask you to get a letter stating that the product has no prohibited substances.

7. Build a recordkeeping system

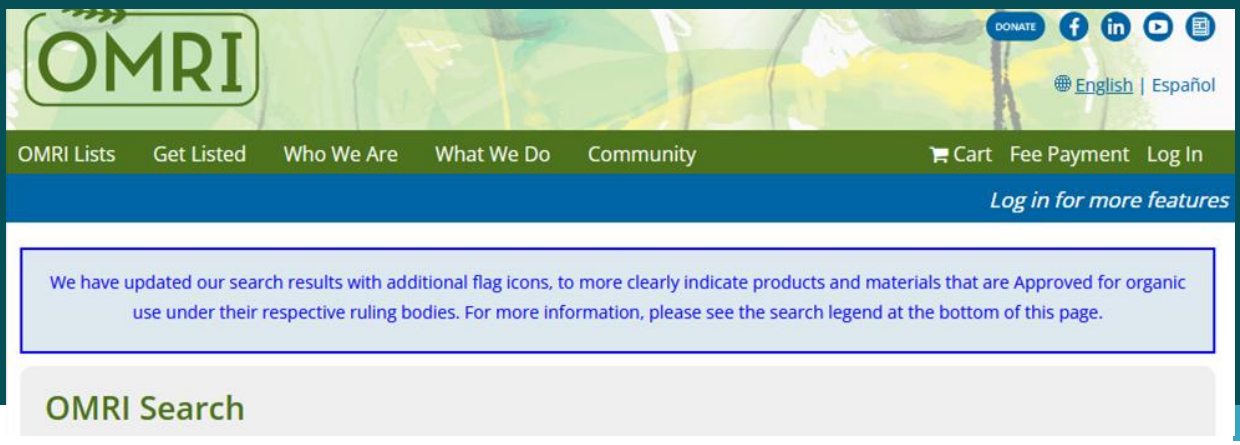
Create an organized way to track seeds and plants, inputs, field activities from planting to harvest, yields, and sales. You can keep your records with pen and paper, spreadsheets, or farm management software – choose whatever method works best for you to keep clear, consistent records that demonstrate your compliance with organic rules and help you make better management decisions. Your certifier will have forms or you can use the **USDA Documentation Forms for Organic Crop Producers.** You can also create your own system or use an app such as **CogPro** or **FarmBrite**.

8. Create an Organic System Plan (OSP)

The OSP is your organic farm's guiding document, showing how you manage soil fertility, weeds, pests, and recordkeeping. This plan is required for certification and updated annually.

9. Prepare for inspection and certification

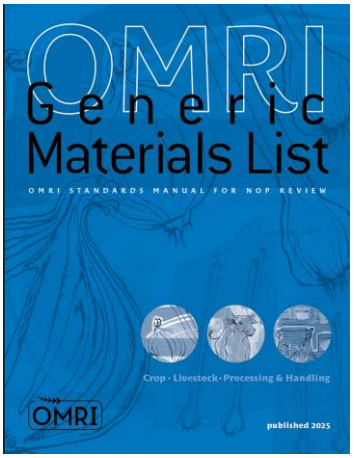
Once your land meets the three-year transition requirement and your OSP is complete, contact an accredited certifier to start the inspection process. Maintain detailed records for all field activities, inputs, and harvests. You may want to prepare using these resources from **ATTRA**, **NOFA-Vermont** or by asking your certifier about what to expect.



The Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI) decides whether products can be listed as organic. They post the results to search online and in 2 books.

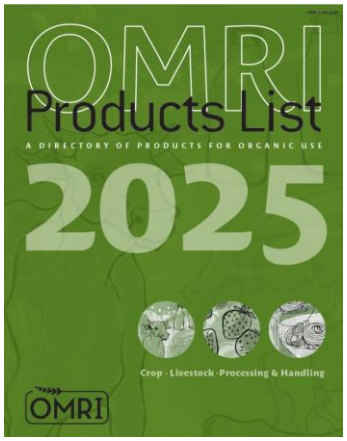
SECTION 1

COMMON QUESTIONS



01 Does organic farming mean just substituting conventional fertilizers and pesticides with organic options?

No: organic inputs can be more expensive and less effective than their synthetic counterparts. To farm organically, you need to take a systems approach and focus on preventing problems before they start.



02 How do I know if an input or pest control product is allowed?

Inputs listed by the **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** or on your certifier's approved materials list are generally compliant. Many materials and products not listed by OMRI can be used in organic farming, but you should contact your certifier first to make sure its use is OK.

03 How do I manage weeds, pests, and diseases without herbicides?

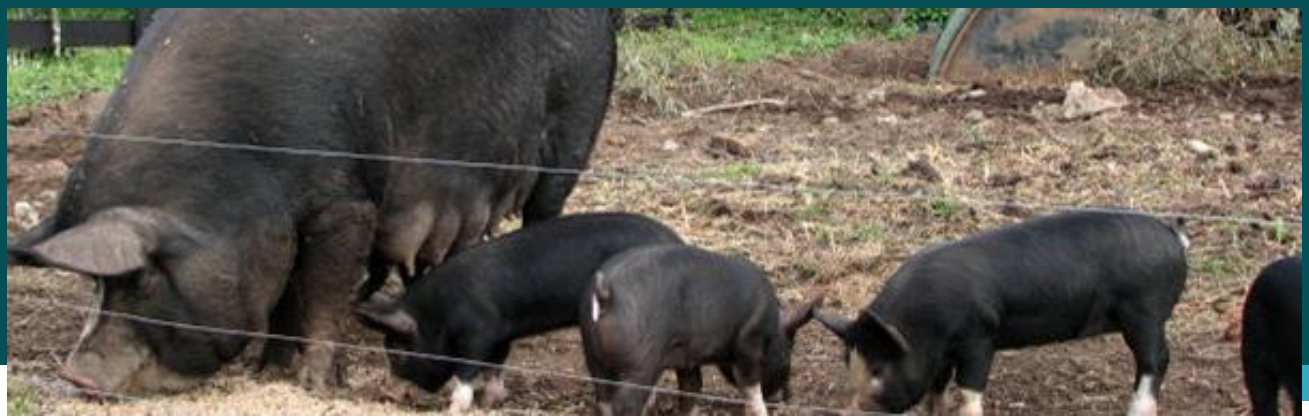
Organic farmers rely on strategies like cover cropping, timely cultivation, mulching, and crop rotation to outcompete weeds and reduce the need for mechanical tillage over time. Similarly, pest scouting, crop rotation, using resistant varieties, proper spacing, and timing plantings help prevent pests and diseases before they become problems.

04 Can I grow organically if my neighbors spray chemicals now?

Yes, but you'll need buffer zones or physical barriers like tree windbreaks to prevent drift or contamination, and you must document how you protect your crops. You may also want to list your land on **DriftWatch**.

05 What crops are easiest to grow organically in Michigan?

For new growers, it is smart to learn organic growing practices for specific crops by working at organic farms growing that crop or by planting a small amount to learn to manage the crop organically. If you can't do that, visit a farm with that crop or find a mentor to guide you in growing it. For existing farms, you may want to start by transitioning a small part of your current farm to growing organically to try out the growing practices and watch for success.



Agape Organic Farms is one of just a few farms in Michigan with certified organic livestock. They also raise certified organic mushrooms.

SECTION 2

Organic Livestock

Primary Considerations

Managing animals organically requires attention to their welfare, diet, and living conditions, as well as detailed recordkeeping to demonstrate compliance. Key considerations include:

Animal health and welfare

Animals must have access to the outdoors, fresh air, and room to move freely. Producers must focus on balanced nutrition, clean housing, and low-stress handling as a facet of preventative health care.

Feed and nutrition

Livestock must be fed 100% organic feed, including access to certified organic pasture for ruminants like cattle, sheep, and goats. Synthetic growth hormones, animal by-products, and non-organic supplements are prohibited.

Pasture and grazing management

Ruminants must graze on certified organic pasture for a minimum of 120 days a year and derive at least 30% of their dry matter intake from pasture during the grazing seasons. Pasture plans should outline rotational grazing schedules, rest periods, and erosion prevention.

Housing and living conditions

Housing must allow natural behaviors, adequate ventilation, and access to outdoor space. Bedding must be organic if it comes from a feed crop, like straw or hay.

Preventative health care

Vaccinations are allowed, but antibiotics and most synthetic medications are not. If an animal becomes ill, it must receive appropriate treatment, even if it means losing organic status.

Recordkeeping

Keep thorough records of feed sources, veterinary care, and pasture management. Inspectors will review these to confirm compliance with organic standards. Livestock must be individually identifiable through permanent, tamper-proof methods like ear tags, tattoos, or other approved methods.

Getting Started with Organic Livestock Production

Although these cattle are raised on organic pasture, a shortage of certified organic butcher facilities is a barrier for some in Michigan. Be sure to find a processor who meets your needs.

Transitioning to organic livestock production means aligning animal care, feed, and pasture management with USDA organic standards while creating systems that support natural health and welfare. Here's how to get started:

1. Review the organic rules for livestock

Read through the **rules for organic livestock production** or dive in deep with the **Final Rule adopted in 2024** or the **Guide for Organic Livestock Producers**.

2. Transition your land and animals

Pastures and forage must be managed organically for at least 36 months before livestock products can be sold as organic. Animals themselves also have transition rules: ruminants for dairy production must be managed organically for at least 12 months prior to milk production; livestock for meat production must be managed organically from the last trimester in utero; and poultry must be organic from the second day of life.

3. Develop a pasture and feed plan

Create a grazing plan that meets the requirement for ruminants to obtain at least 30% of their dry matter intake from pasture during the grazing season. Source 100% organic feed, including minerals and supplements approved by your certifier. The **Purdue Forage Field Guide**, or MSU Grazing school can help you make a plan. NRCS EQIP can create a Grazing Management Plan and pay cost share for some of the **conservation practices common for grazers**.

4. Establish housing and welfare practices

Ensure animals have access to the outdoors year-round, with shade, shelter, clean water, and space to move naturally. Housing should be clean, dry, and designed to minimize stress and disease. A great guide for designing livestock shelter is *Polyface Designs*.

5. Create a preventative health program

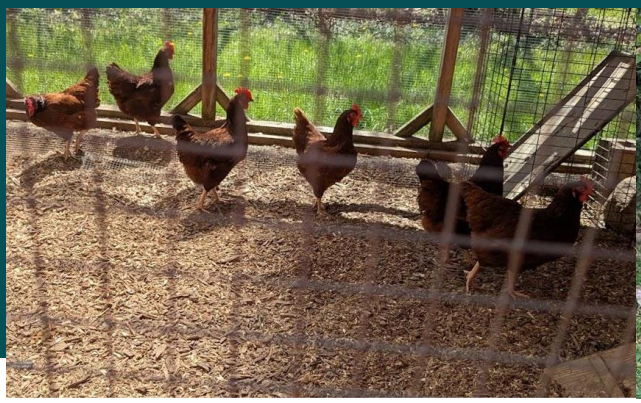
Emphasize animal welfare through balanced nutrition, biosecurity, and proactive management. Vaccinations and certain natural treatments are allowed, but antibiotics and most synthetic drugs are not allowed.

6. Keep detailed records

Track feed purchases, veterinary care, pasture rotations, and animal movement. These records form the foundation of your **Organic System Plan (OSP)** and are essential for inspection and certification.

7. Work with a certifier

Identify a potential certifier early in the process so you can reach out to them for support and advice before submitting your application. Submit your OSP outlining livestock care, feed sources, and pasture management following the templates they provide. Once reviewed, your farm will undergo inspection before certification approval.



Organic livestock can spend time in shelters, but they must have access to outdoor pasture that is certified organic. There are exceptions for extreme weather and for life stages that need protection, such as chicks and newly born animals.

SECTION 2

COMMON QUESTIONS

01 Can I transition my existing herd to organic?

Yes. Dairy animals must be managed organically for at least 12 months before their milk can be sold as organic, while livestock for meat must be raised organically from the last third of gestation. Poultry, including egg layers, must be managed organically starting no later than the second day of life.

02 Can my livestock be organic if they have no outside access, or if the outside areas are conventional?

No – new livestock rules mean that all animals must have meaningful access to outdoor areas, and those outdoor areas must be managed organically. Livestock farmers who certify organic usually must maintain a certification for their livestock, plus an organic crop certification for their pastures and land.

03 How much does organic feed for animals cost?

Organic feed usually costs 2-3 times the amount of conventionally grown feed, and is one of the largest costs involved in raising livestock organically. Many local feed stores stock organic feed. If you are looking to produce organic livestock for commercial purposes, you will probably need to purchase organic feed in bulk. Michigan suppliers include:

- **Graham's Organics** in Rosebush
- **Raub Rae Farms** in Brown City
- **Dexter Mill** in Dexter
- **Hall's Feed Mill** in Traverse City
- **Kalmback Feeds** in Breckenridge.

Many local feed stores are able to sell organic feed by the pallet for a discounted price.

04 How can I manage parasites and diseases without antibiotics and synthetic antiparasitics?

Preventing problems is the first line of defense – this means providing good nutrition, low stress environments, monitoring health closely, and choosing breeds with good disease resistance. Use rotational grazing, multi-species grazing, and strategic pasture management to break parasite life cycles. The tipsheet on **Treatment of Sick or Injured Organic Livestock** can help you find the right strategies, but you may sometimes need a veterinarian - preferably one familiar with organic options.

05 Can I raise organic and non-organic animals on the same farm?

Yes, but you must maintain complete separation between the two systems: different feed, housing, equipment, and recordkeeping. Inspectors will check that there's no commingling or contamination between organic and conventional animals.

SECTION 3

Organic System Plans

This section includes some templates to help you write your organic system plan. We have included following resources from the USDA:

Organic System Plans

- OSP Template – Organic Production (docx) – *included in full*
- OSP Template – Crop Production (docx) – *first page is included*
- OSP Template – Livestock Production (docx) – *first page is included*

Certifiers often have their own forms. You can find the Organic System Plan templates for several certifiers popular in Michigan by looking here:

- Organic System Plan templates for OCIA, OEFFA, Oregon Tilth and SCS

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

Organic System Plan Template – Organic Production

Forms Checklist	**7 C.F.R. §§ 205.2 - 205.406**

Please note that these forms are suggested templates; contact your certifier for approval of the forms you plan to use. Please provide thorough descriptions that reflect all your current and planned practices. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic regulations require Organic System Plans (OSPs) to be reviewed and updated annually. Whenever you anticipate a change in your operation's practices, procedures or materials, please update and resubmit the sections or pages that reflect that change. This Forms Checklist must be submitted along with your application, OSP, and all other forms indicated below.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Please provide a brief, general description of your organic operation, including: crops or crop types and cropping systems; livestock raised and animal products; any handling activities related to your crop and livestock production; and type(s) of marketing and sales (contract, wholesale, direct marketing, etc.).

_____
_____
_____
_____

All applicants seeking organic certification, whether for crop and/or livestock production and/or handling, please complete these forms:

- ☐ Forms Checklist (this form)
- ☐ Affidavit
- ☐ Land Requirements Form +
- ☐ Documentation of Prior Land Use
- ☐ Application
- ☐ Natural Resource Management
- ☐ Map +

Submit a Land Requirements Form with a Map and Documentation of prior land use for each farm, ranch or production location. Total number of locations/sets of forms: _____

- ☐ Fees (no template)
- ☐ Sales Report (no template)

Complete the OSP forms (sections) that best describe your organic operation. The Crop and Livestock Production Overviews, respectively, will guide your selection of forms. Check the box by each OSP form that you are submitting with your application for certification.

Crops (as applicable):
- ☐ Crop Production Overview
- ☐ Seed and Planting Stock
- ☐ Soil Management and Crop Rotation

Livestock (as applicable):
All Livestock Producers:
- ☐ Livestock Production Overview
- ☐ Origin of Livestock

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

- ☐ Pest, Disease, and Weed Management
- ☐ Prevention of Commingling and Contamination
- ☐ Materials List
- ☐ Recordkeeping, Labeling, and Audit Trail
- ☐ Greenhouse Crop/Seedling Production
- ☐ Compost and Manure Use/Production
- ☐ Crop Post-Harvest Handling
- ☐ Wild Crop Harvest
- ☐ Livestock Living Conditions
- ☐ Livestock Health Care
- ☐ Livestock Feed
- ☐ Livestock Recordkeeping
- ☐ On-Farm Handling of Livestock Production

Ruminant Livestock Producers:

- ☐ Ruminant Livestock and Pasture (Pasture Management, Ruminant Feed and Dry Matter Intake)

Supplementary Documentation: Your certifier may request additional information or specific documentation forms. You may attach other documentation relevant to your OSP. Please indicate or list all supplementary documents that are attached.

- ☐ Documentation of Prior Land Management
- ☐ Field History Forms/Input Material Records
- ☐ Organic Seed Non-Availability/Non-GMO Documentation
- ☐ Worksheets/Calculation of Dry Matter Intake (Ruminant Livestock)
- ☐ Other (list all other items submitted as attachments to your Application/OSP):

Application **7 C.F.R. § 205.401**

OSP Template – Organic Production (Rev. 2015) Page 2 of 8

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

a) Applicant(s)		
b) Farm, ranch, or business name		
c) Mailing address		
d) Physical address		
e) City	f) State	g) Zip code
h) Primary phone no.	i) Alt. phone no.	j) Fax no. (optional)
k) Email address		
l) County(ies) where farm/ranch is located		

m) Organizational Structure/Legal Status:

- ☐ Sole Proprietorship
- ☐ S corporation
- ☐ Trust
- ☐ Government/Public Agency
- ☐ Legal Partnership
- ☐ Limited Liability Corporation
- ☐ Non-Profit Organization
- ☐ Other (specify):

n) If a corporation, list the State of incorporation and name, if different than listed above:

o) Name of the person(s) authorized to act on the applicant's behalf

p) Address	q) Telephone number

r) List the name(s) of any certifier(s) to which an application has been previously made, and date(s) of application: ☐ none

s) Outcome of the application submission(s)

t) If you have received any notification of noncompliance or denial of certification, please attach these with a description of actions taken to correct noncompliances, including evidence of correction. ☐ Attached ☐ Not applicable

u) This application must be accompanied by a completed OSP form that includes all organic production and handling activities for which you are seeking certification. ☐ attached

☐ *The signature below is from an authorized representative of the operation applying for certification.*

Signature of Applicant(s) _____ **Date** _____

SEND APPLICATION, OSP AND FEES TO: Certifier Name, Address, and Telephone Number

Note: All business information submitted or collected is confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying.

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

Affirmations **7 C.F.R. §§ 205.400, 205.401**

- ☐ I/We agree to comply with all applicable organic production and handling regulations as described in the final rule issued by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and codified in 7 C.F.R. Part 205.
- ☐ I/We agree to establish, implement, and update annually an OSP. I/We affirm that the attached OSP includes and accurately describes all aspects of my/our current organic operation.
- ☐ I/We will immediately notify our certifier of any change in my/our certified operation or portion of it that may affect its compliance with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 or the USDA organic regulations. I/We will submit an OSP update whenever changes are made, thus ensuring that the application/OSP consistently reflects my/our current organic operation.
- ☐ I/We have made/kept a copy of my/our application, OSP, and all applicable attachments and addenda.
- ☐ I/We understand that a certifier's acceptance of this form in no way implies granting of certification.
- ☐ I/We have reviewed the USDA organic regulations. I have asked the certifier for clarification of any points that were unclear to me so that I now understand them.
- ☐ I/We agree to comply with all applicable State and NOP production and handling standards as described in the final rule of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and codified in the USDA organic regulations at 7 C.F.R. Part 205.
- ☐ I/We will permit onsite inspections with complete access to the production or handling operation, including noncertified production and handling areas, structures and offices, by the certifier. I understand that my operation may be subject to announced and/or unannounced inspections and/or sampling for residues at any time as deemed appropriate to ensure compliance with the USDA organic regulations.
- ☐ I/We agree to maintain all records applicable to the organic operation for not less than five (5) years beyond their creation and to allow authorized representatives of the Secretary of the USDA, the applicable State organic program's governing State official, and the certifier access to such records during normal business hours for review and copying to determine compliance.
- ☐ I/We agree to immediately notify my/our certifier concerning any application, including drift, of a prohibited substance to any field, production unit, site, facility, livestock, or product that is part of an operation.
- ☐ I agree to submit applicable fees charged according to the fee schedule by the certifier.
- ☐ I/We affirm that all information in this application/OSP is true and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge.

Signature of Applicant/Authorized Representative Date

Submit completed forms, fees and supporting documents to your certifier.

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

Land Requirements **7 C.F.R. §§ 205.103, 205.202**

This form describes a farm or production location for organic crop and/or livestock production and allows accompanying documentation to establish its eligibility for organic certification. Submit one copy of this Land Requirements form for **each** farm location (not for individual fields) that is non-adjacent to your other farmland or production locations, and/or has distinct land use history (different date of last prohibited materials use or different prior land manager, etc.).

☐ This Land Requirements form describes all the land in my organic operation.
☐ Additional copies of this form are attached and describe other land within my operation.

2.1 LAND DESCRIPTION		
Farm Name or Number	Area (acres) to be certified organic	
Parcel Location	Field Numbers (for *all* fields)	
City/Town	State	County
Legal Description: Section/Township/Range or Assessor's Parcel Number		

2.2 LAND MANAGEMENT **7 C.F.R. § 205.202(a) and (b)**

a) When did you being managing this land? (mm/dd/yy) _____
b) What was the date of last use of prohibited materials? _____
☐ Not applicable; no prohibited materials applied.
c) What is your estimated harvest date of a certified organic crop from this land? _____
d) Describe, in general terms, how this land has been managed for the past three years: crops grown; fallow; pasture, etc.; organic or non-organic management; farming practices used.

_____

2.3 LAND USE HISTORY DOCUMENTATION **7 C.F.R. § 205.202**

a) Check the type(s) of documentation attached that shows eligibility of this land for organic certification:
☐ current organic certificate in my operation's name; continuing certification
☐ prior land manager affidavit ☐ field history form
☐ copy of the organic certificate from a previous manager ***and*** associated documentation (profile with parcel address or location, maps) to show that this land has been continuously certified with no lapse in organic management up to the date of transfer of management
☐ other documentation that shows all materials used on this land and the date(s) they were used in the last three years (describe):

_____

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

2.4 MAPS **7 C.F.R. § 205.202(c)**

a) Attach Field Map(s). Provide an accurate map that shows each field included on the farm listed above. Show boundaries and area to be certified. The map should be 8 ½ x 11". This may be a county parcel map, Farm Service Agency map, aerial photograph, or a detailed hand-drawn map, as long as it is clearly readable when photocopied. This map must be current and dated. An updated (revised or new) map must be submitted whenever information on the map changes (field numbers, acres, buffers, adjoining land use, etc.)

The map attached includes the following:

- ☐ field name(s)/number(s)
- ☐ north arrow
- ☐ adjoining land use(s)
- ☐ landmarks such as buildings, farm or public roads, railroad tracks
- ☐ area (acres)
- ☐ slope(s)
- ☐ buffers (if applicable)
- ☐ windbreaks, hedgerows or woodlands

Required for ruminant livestock producers:

- ☐ location, size and identification of pastures
- ☐ location and types of permanent fences
- ☐ feeding area(s) (to feed without crowding)
- ☐ location and source of water and shade

b) Attach a Farm Overview Map that shows the location of this farm and all other farm locations in your operation.

☐ Attached ☐ Not applicable; one farm location only

2.5 BOUNDARIES, ADJACENT LAND USE AND BUFFER AREAS **7 C.F.R. § 205.202(c)**

a) Describe your farm borders and adjacent land use (organic farms, fallow fields, CRP land, wild lands, non-organic crop or livestock production, residential use, etc.)

_____

b) Describe the measures you take (management practices, communications and/or physical barriers) to prevent contamination by prohibited materials that are or may be applied to adjacent or nearby land (neighboring parcels or fields in split operations). ☐ No areas of concern.

_____

c) Describe buffer areas for each field/pasture that you maintain on your organic land to protect crops from contamination. Please specify whether you grow crops in the buffer area, and whether you plan to sell or represent them as organic. If you need more space, please attach a separate page. ☐ Buffer description attached.

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

Natural Resource Management **7 C.F.R. §§ 205.2, 205.200, 205.203, 205.239, 205.240**

Key regulations related to natural resource management:

§ 205.2 Definitions:

Organic production. A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.

Natural resources of the operation. The physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.

§ 205.200: Production practices implemented in accordance with this subpart must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.

§ 205.203(a): The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.

§ 205.203(c): The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.

§ 205.239(e): The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage manure in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals, or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients and must manage pastures and other outdoor access areas in a manner that does not put soil or water quality at risk.

§ 205.240(c)(8): The pasture plan shall include a description of the erosion control and protection of natural wetlands and riparian areas practices.

Organic standards specifically address soil (conservation and health) and water (conservation and quality; contamination prevention). As quoted above, the standards also include a general requirement to maintain or improve natural resources (soil, water, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife) by integrating cultural, biological and mechanical practices to foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Organic production practices must maintain or improve their natural resources.

While natural resource management is a core organic standard, producer strategies will be specific to each site and type of production. Each operation's practices are adapted to the features of the land and local conditions, especially related to: soil (soil types, slope, risks of erosion, and overall health); water (position in the watershed, presence of water courses and riparian areas, and water usage); and wetlands, woodlands and wildlife (ecosystem type, biological diversity and habitat on and around the farm).

Organic farming practices can conserve soil, increase soil health, protect water and contribute to biological diversity within—and often beyond—its boundaries. On-farm practices may include: soil building to increase organic matter, humus, biological activity and diversity of soil

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

organisms; inclusion of flowering plants, habitat or shelter for pollinators, insects, other arthropods, spiders, bats, raptors and other predators; control of specific non-native invasive species; establishment of grassed waterways or hedgerows to check erosion and foster habitat; watershed protection; habitat restoration; or efforts to promote wildlife migration corridors or conservation.

Update changes: Signature _____ Date _____

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

Organic System Plan Template – Crop Production

Crop Production Overview — **7 C.F.R. § 205.2-205.406**

1. List all crops (or types of crops if your operation is highly diversified) you grow or harvest for which you are seeking organic certification. Include food and feed crops, pasture/forage, and wild-crops.

   _____

   _____

2. Check the box that describes your operation's production systems:
   - ☐ all organic production
   - ☐ organic and non-organic production

3. Do you grow crops in soil?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit the following Crop OSP forms: Crop Rotation and Soil Management; Pest, Disease and Weed Management; Prevention of Contamination and Commingling; Recordkeeping, Labeling and Audit Trail. ☐ Attached (4 forms)

4. Do you plant seeds, seedlings, or planting stock of any kind?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit the Seeds and Planting Stock form. ☐ Attached

5. Do you use any off-farm input materials?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit the Materials List form. ☐ Attached

6. Do you produce seedlings or crops in containers with planting medium, or grow crops in a greenhouse, coldframe or hoophouse?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit the Greenhouse Crop form. ☐ Attached

7. Do you produce compost or use purchased compost?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes

8. Do you use manure?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes

Last Name(s)	First Name(s)	Farm/Ranch/Business Name	Date

Organic System Plan Template – Livestock Production

Livestock Production Overview — **7 C.F.R. §§ 205.105, 205.201, 205.301-311**

1. Please indicate or list all livestock and livestock products for which you are seeking certification.
   - ☐ Livestock for slaughter
   - ☐ Meat
   - ☐ Milk
   - ☐ Other (specify): _____
   - ☐ Replacement animals
   - ☐ Eggs
   - ☐ Other dairy products (list)
   - ☐ Breeding stock
   - ☐ Fiber

2. Check the box that describes your operation's livestock production systems:
   - ☐ all organic production
   - ☐ organic and non-organic production

3. Do you raise non-ruminant livestock, such as poultry or swine?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit the following Livestock OSP forms: Origin of Livestock, Livestock Living Conditions, Livestock Health Care, Livestock Feed, Livestock Recordkeeping, Labeling and Audit Trail. ☐ Attached (5 forms)

4. Do you raise ruminant livestock?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit all of the forms listed in question 3, plus the Ruminant Livestock and Pasture form, and the Crop Production Overview with appropriate forms. (All ruminant producers must manage pasture as a crop.) ☐ Attached

5. Do you raise crops?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; please submit the Crop Production Overview, and additional forms, as appropriate. (All ruminant producers must manage pasture as a crop.) ☐ Attached

6. Describe all handling activities of livestock production for which you are requesting certification.
   - ☐ Not applicable; no handling. If you do simple handling activities of your own production (i.e., cool and store milk, wash and pack eggs, etc.), or prepare feed for your own livestock (i.e., silage production, grinding and/or mixing) these may be certified as part of your livestock operation. Please complete and attach an On-Farm Handling of Livestock Production OSP.
   - ☐ On-Farm Handling of Livestock Production form attached. If your handling operation includes complex processing (i.e., slaughter, cut and wrap, cook or smoke meat, cheesemaking, etc.) and/or includes handling crop or livestock products for other

RESOURCES & PARTNERS

National & Regional Programs and Resources

- USDA National Organic Program (NOP): https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program
- USDA Farmers.gov resources for organic: https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/other-topics/organic
- eOrganic Organic Agriculture Community of Practice of eXtension: https://eorganic.info/
- National TOPP farmer resources: https://www.organictransition.org/resources/
- USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Program: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/organic-certification-cost-share-program-occsp

- Organic Farmers Association: https://organicfarmersassociation.org/resources/
- Organic Farming Research Foundation: https://ofrf.org/
- Organic Trade Association: https://www.organic-center.org/
- Real Organic Project: https://realorganicproject.org/
- Marbleseed: https://marbleseed.org/
- Rodale Institute: https://rodaleinstitute.org/
- OEFFA: https://www.oeffa.org/
- NCAT/ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture program: https://attra.ncat.org/
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education: https://www.sare.org/
- Ag Solidarity Network: https://agsolidaritynetwork.com/
- Organic Seed Alliance: https://seedalliance.org/
- OGrain Resource List: https://ograin.cals.wisc.edu/resources/organic-grain-resource-list/
- Organic Materials Review Institute: https://www.omri.org/

Michigan Programs and Resources

- Michigan TOPP: https://www.canr.msu.edu/organictransition/index
- MSU OFTP: https://www.canr.msu.edu/organic_farmer_training_program/
- MOFFA: https://moffa.net/
- MIFFS: https://miffs.org/

- MSU Extension: https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/
- Michigan Driftwatch: https://mi.driftwatch.org/map
- OFTP Certification Options chart: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Mk4lqe_Dt8dukc6tv4o--6vGWEBmCZkT/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114599576093519613781&rtpof=true&sd=true
- OFTP Organic Amendments guide: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DYCVI0hdqFqKk5UPLH6s0pFPPkdviyzx/
- OFTP Organic Records templates: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w-LtapnRrGidME3xzM6SrENb-LJzctuD
- Map of resources for Michigan organic farmers: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/viewer?ml_sub=260914820755227159 3&ml_sub_hash=d8z7&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=november_conservation_update&utm_term=2024-11-10&mid=1nmbpEHEnGvvabSzr0WgcP3ROz64Nsgs&ll=40.167002755499 82%2C-95.56447955000002&z=4
- Interactive map of Beginning farmer resources: https://www.canr.msu.edu/organic_farmer_training_program/resources/map.html
- Michigan Sustainable Farm Jobs and Opportunities Listserv: Email listserv@list.msu.edu with SUBSCRIBE MISUSTAINABLEFARMJOBS in the body of the message (NOT just the Subject line)

Where to start?

- Excellent collection of dozens of good resources for organic rules and recordkeeping: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/organic-records
- https://carolinafarmstewards.org/resources/organic-certification-and-production-guide/
- Workbook with great info for transitioning to organic: https://www.sare.org/resources/organic-transition/
- **Choose an accredited certifying agency**
- **Organic System Plan templates** for OCIA, OEFFA, Oregon Tilth and SCS
- **USDA Documentation Forms for Organic Crop Producers**. You can also create your own system or use an app such as
- Apps for Organic Farm Recordkeeping:
  - **Tend**
  - **CogPro**
  - **FarmBrite**
- **DriftWatch**
- **Rules for organic crop production**
- **Guide for Organic Crop Producers**
- **Crop Rotation on Organic Farms** - free pdf of SARE book
- **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** list or the **OMRI search**
- **USDA Documentation Forms for Organic Crop Producers**
- **ATTRA** Preparing for an Organic Inspection
- **NOFA-Vermont** - Preparing for an Organic Inspection
- **Purdue Forage Field Guide**
- **Conservation practices common for grazers**
- **Treatment of Sick or Injured Organic Livestock**

Soil Test Labs:

- MSU Labs: permanently closed, but MSU will send out your test to A & L and then interpret the results for you
- Morgan Composting: free consultation with test - https://dairydoo.com/soil-testing-services/
- A & L Labs: https://algreatlakes.com/pages/services
- Cornell: lead tests; biology & C tests https://soilhealthlab.cals.cornell.edu/testing-services/
- Vriesland Growers' Cooperative: best for muck soils https://fcelevator.com/agronomy/
- Midwestern BioAg: https://www.midwesternbioag.com/our-approach/services/
    - NOTE: if you get a soil consultation from someone who sells products, they will want to sell you products (Morgan's high-grade compost; Midwest BioAg amendments, etc).

Lead Testing:

- Kido at Keep Growing Detroit for tests in Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck https://www.detroitagriculture.net/support
- Accurate Analytical Testing in Romulus Michigan
    - atheys@accurate-test.biz or customersupport@accurate-test.biz
    - https://accurate-test.com/LeadTesting
    - 734-699-5227, 734-629-8161

- Envirolab Services in Oscoda Michigan - $45 +$15 shipping for community gardens; $120 for other sites. https://envirolabservice.com/contact/
- Cornell: lead tests; biology & C tests https://soilhealthlab.cals.cornell.edu/testing-services/
- Penn State Ag Analytical Lab https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing/environmental
- UMass Soil & Plant Nutrient Testing Lab (*Choose Total lead analysis - not correlation lead analysis) https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/lab-services

Accredited Certifiers Working with Small and Medium Sized Producers in Michigan

- CCOF: https://www.ccof.org
- Ecocert: https://usa.ecocert.com/
- GOA: https://www.goa-online.org/members/
- MOSA: https://mosaorganic.org/
- NICS: https://naturesinternational.com/nics/assessment
- OCIA: https://ocia.org/transitioning-to-organic/
- OEFFA: https://www.oeffa.org/
- OnMark: https://www.onmarkcertification.com/certification
- Oregon Tilth: https://tilth.org/certification/apply/
- Who certifies organic producers and processors in Michigan?: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lDCNKrGpwTpp8Jem3KE8MMy_VW4imaIqFFzztDdX4Sc/edit?usp=drive_link
- Michigan Certifiers cost breakdown: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W5OHLDybCGxcVd15oODRq5eKnCYfCAuH/view?usp=drive_link