

Organic Transition Initiative



Interested in Transitioning to Organic Agriculture?

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help you transition to organic through the multi-agency Organic Transition Initiative (OTI). Through OTI NRCS will hire new organic experts to support NRCS staff and host hands-on organic trainings and assist field staff with organic related questions.

How it Works

The new organic management standard gives you the flexibility to get the assistance and education you need such as attending workshops or requesting help from experts or mentors.

It supports conservation activities and practices required for organic certification and may provide foregone income reimbursement for dips in production during the transition period.

For example, the **National Organic Standards** support composting, outdoor access for livestock, and organic nutrient management which are all covered through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program under the new standard.

Flexible education and training activities can include field days, working alongside organic experts and more. You can work with NRCS field staff, approved technical service providers, and other approved organic partners.

How to Apply

Eligible producers include farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and other producers beginning or in the process of transitioning to organic certification.



Higher payment rates and other options are available for underserved producers including socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran, and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

You can apply through NRCS at your **local USDA Service Center**.

Other Assistance for Organic Producers

Organic producers are eligible for all USDA programs and assistance, including Farm Service Agency's **Organic Certification Cost Share Assistance** and NRCS programs and assistance, including the targeted **EQIP National Organic Initiative**. Learn more about the ways USDA supports organic agriculture at www.farmers.gov/organic.

Additional USDA Organic Assistance

FSA

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program which reduces financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a loss of production, loss of value, or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

OTI complements **existing assistance for organic producers**, including **FSA's Organic Certification Cost Share Program** which helps producers obtain or renew their organic certification.

RMA

Administers federal crop insurance options, including **Whole Farm Revenue Protection** and **Micro Farm**, which may be good options for organic producers.

AMS

The National Organic Program is a federal regulatory program, administered by AMS, that develops and enforces **consistent national standards** for organically produced agricultural products sold in the United States.

More Information

For more information, visit farmers.gov/organic.

