

# Conservation Crosswalk to Organic

## Organic Systems

The National Organic Program (NOP) requires producers to develop an Organic System Plan that details the management practices that will be used to meet the NOP Production Practice Standards for crop rotation, soil fertility and crop nutrients, seeds and planting stock, and crop pest, weed and disease management. The Organic System Plan is agreed to by the producer and the certifying agent.

NRCS advocates farming systems that use a combination of conservation practices to protect natural resources (soil, water, air, plant, and animal), promote long-term sustainability, and help move your farm forward on the "Crosswalk to Organic" farming. Producers can adopt many conservation practices during their "organic transitioning" period to improve soil quality, establish buffer zones, and meet NOP Crop Production Standards. Key practices include cover crops to improve soil quality, provide nutrients, and control pests; establishment of beneficial insect habitat; residue management; and composting manure.

## Farm Bill Programs Can Help

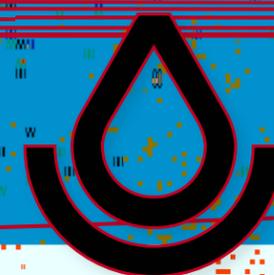
The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help producers use conservation practices and systems on land they wish to transition to organic production. Contact your local office for assistance and information about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

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## Management Options to Transition

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
[soils.usda.gov/sqi](http://soils.usda.gov/sqi)



# Transition to Organic Production

## Crop Rotation

deep-rooted crops

cover crop mixtures

no-till & cover crops

## Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrients

legume cover crops

organic amendments

residue management

## Seeds and Planting Stock

insectary plantings

vegetative windbreaks

field borders

## Crop Pest, Weed and Disease Management

weed-suppressing cover

trap crops

allelopathic plants