



Overview

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to producers who would like to explore or are currently transitioning to organic agriculture.

Key areas of natural resource management assistance that can also help to meet National Organic Program requirements include:

- **Soil health**
erosion control, organic matter
- **Nutrient management**
- **Crop rotations**
- **Biodiversity**
buffers, habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects and wildlife
- **Livestock practices** *grazing management, fencing, watering*

EQIP Organic

Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Organic Initiative



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Benefits

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns, especially related to the transition to organic production. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can be up to \$20,000 annually, and/or up to \$80,000 over a six-year contract.



Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Producers must self-certify that they fall into one of the following three categories: certified organic, transitional, or exempt from certification.
- Control or own eligible land
- Comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations

Producers not ready to commit to officially transition to an organic production system may be eligible for assistance through general EQIP.

How to Apply

NRCS will help eligible producers develop an EQIP plan of operations, which will become the basis of the contract. Applications will be ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal.

Visit your local USDA Service Center to apply or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted

More Information

For more information, contact your local USDA service center or www.nrcs.usda.gov or www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic.

To find your state organic contact, contact your state office at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/.

Find Your Local USDA Service Center

<http://offices.usda.gov>

To learn more about organics and to decide if it's the right choice for you, visit www.usda.gov/organic.



Hoop houses, such as this one in Montana, extend the growing season.

www.nrcs.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service