



News Release

Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1321
Jackson, Mississippi 39269

For more information, contact:
Laura Anderson, State Public Affairs Officer
laura.t.anderson@usda.gov

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Funds to Help Mississippi Agricultural Producers Transitioning to Organic as Part of USDA's Organic Transition Initiative

JACKSON, Miss, May 8, 2023 – Mississippi's State Conservationist, Kurt Readus, of U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), announced today, an additional signup through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) to provide financial assistance for adopting new organic management standards.

"The Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) contributes to improving our climate crisis," said Readus.

The EQIP Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) is aimed at improving our climate by implementing climate-smart practices with conservation practices standards (CPS) 138– Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (CPA), (CPS)–140 Transition to Organic Design (DIA), (CPS) 327– Conservation Cover, (CPS) 328– Conservation Crop Rotation, (CPS)340– Cover Crop, (CPS) 386– Field Border, (CPS) 590– Nutrient Management and (CPS) 823– Organic Management.

How to Apply

NRCS accepts applications for its conservation programs year-round, However, producers interested in the Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) **apply by June 9, 2023**, to be considered for funding in the current cycle.

More Information

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

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