USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ASSISTANCE FOR TRANSITIONING TO ORGANIC

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to producers who are transitioning from conventional to organic agriculture.

Key areas of conservation assistance that also help meet **USDA National Organic Program** requirements include:

soil health

EROSION CONTROL
ORGANIC MATTER
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
CROP ROTATIONS

biodiversity

HEDGEROWS & BUFFERS
HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE, POLLINATORS AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS

livestock practices

PASTURE & GRAZING MANAGEMENT
DIVERSE PASTURE PLANTINGS
FENCING, WALKWAYS
WATERING FACILITIES

NRCS PROVIDES FREE ASSISTANCE TO ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.

TURN OVER TO LEARN MORE.

ORGANIC

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

NRCS provides free technical assistance to all agricultural producers. Transitioning-to-organic producers are also eligible for all NRCS financial assistance programs, though the Environmental Quality Incentives Program's Organic Initiative is designed specifically for this purpose. For all programs, producers must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements and, in some states, sodsaver provisions; additional requirements are unique to each program. Learn more at **www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill**.

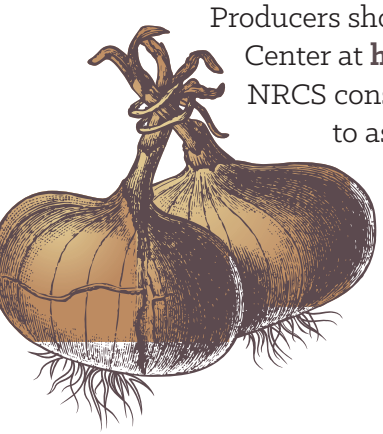
CONSERVATION ACTIVITY PLAN 138

NRCS' CAP 138 helps transitioning-to-organic producers by addressing the natural resource concerns of their operation. The CAP must be prepared by a NRCS-certified technical service provider (TSP) in order for the producer to receive financial and technical assistance from NRCS.

The Resource Inventory (section one) of the CAP 138, when submitted with the Resource Inventory Supplement, contains the required components of an Organic System Plan. Current National Organic Program regulations do not require the use of a specific OSP. The use of the Resource Inventory and the Resource Inventory Supplement document for this purpose is optional, but producers should check with their organic certifier to learn their preference.

GET STARTED

Producers should visit their local USDA Service Center at **http://offices.usda.gov** to meet with an NRCS conservationist, or contact their state office to ask for their State organic point of contact at **www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states**.



Contact Us

To receive technical assistance in completing CAP 138, producers should contact their local NRCS service center, at **http://offices.usda.gov**

To learn more about organics, visit the USDA organic website **www.usda.gov/organic**, or the NRCS organic website **www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic**

www.nrcs.usda.gov
@USDA_NRCS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.