

ABOUT ORGANIC CERTIFICATION IN TENNESSEE

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP) ... an Overview

- NOP established *national* standards for organically labeled products.
- USDA approves organizations or persons to become "certifying agents"
- Certifying agents certify that production and handling practices meet the national standards.
- Producers or handlers who sell \$5000 of product per year labeled or represented as "organic" must be certified.

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

1. Producer purchases "Certification Application Packet" from accredited certifying agent of their choice.
 2. Producer pays applicable fees and submits completed application which includes: (1) History of substances applied to the land for the previous three years, (2) Organic products being grown or processed, (3) Organic plan, which includes practices and substances used in production (Must keep post-certification records on production, harvesting, and handling for five years.)
 3. Certifying agent reviews application for certification eligibility.
 4. Inspector, assigned by certifying agent, conducts on-site inspection of the applicant's operation.
 5. Certifying agent reviews the information submitted by the applicant and the inspector's report. If review and inspection show compliance with the requirements, the agent will issue a certificate.
- Certified operations must submit updated organic plan, pay fees, and be re-inspected each year.
 - USDA or the certifying agent may conduct unannounced inspections at any time to enforce the regulations.
 - Certifying agents or USDA will conduct residue tests of organic products if there is reason to believe that products have been contaminated with prohibited substances.

CROP STANDARDS:

Land will have no prohibited substances for at least three years before harvest of an organic crop.

- Use of genetic engineering, ionizing, radiation, and sewage sludge is prohibited.
- Soil fertility will be managed through crop rotations and cover crops, supplemented with animal and crop waste materials and allowed synthetic materials.
- Preference will be given to use of organic seeds, but exceptions can be made under specified conditions.
- Crop pests, weeds and diseases will be controlled primarily through management practices. When these practices are not sufficient, a biological, botanical, or synthetic substance on the approved national list may be used. (See: <http://www.omri.org>).

LIVESTOCK STANDARDS:

Animals for slaughter must be raised under organic management from the last third of gestation, or no later than the second day of life for poultry.

- Must feed 100% organic feeds, but may also provide allowed vitamin and mineral supplements. (See: <http://www.omri.org>)
- Animals cannot be given growth hormones or antibiotics. (Producers are prohibited from withholding treatment from a sick or injured animal, however animals treated with a prohibited medication cannot be sold as organic)
- Animals must have access to the outdoors, including pasture for ruminants.
- Animals may be temporarily confined only for reasons of health, safety, the animal's stage of production, or to protect soil or water quality.

Organic Certification Cost-Share Program - Tennessee

This program seeks to defray the cost of organic certification for producers and handlers of organic agricultural products in Tennessee. The state, using funds from the USDA, will reimburse each eligible producer or handler for up to 75% of organic certification costs, not to exceed \$500. Reimbursement will again be available to production and handling operations inspected and certified and/or inspected and receiving continuation of certification during the periods October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006 as long as funding is available.

TENNESSEE ORGANIC RESOURCE LIST

TSU (Tennessee State University)

Finis Stribling
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209-1561
615-963-5491
fstribling@tnstate.edu
www.tsu.edu

TDA (Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture)

PO Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 837-5298
Fax: (615) 837-5194
www.picktnproducts.org

UT (The University of Tennessee)

252 Ellington Plant Sciences Building
2431 Joe Johnson Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-4561
Brandon R. Smith, Ph.D.
bsmith87@utk.edu
Dr. Annette Wszelaki
awszelak@utk.edu

TCIA (TN Crop Improvement Assn)

Stacy Burwick, ORGANIC INSPECTOR
MATTHEW YOUNG, ORGANIC INSPECTOR
2640-C Nolensville Rd.
Nashville, TN 37211
(615) 242-0467
Fax: (615) 248-3461
tcia@superiorseeds.org
www.superiorseeds.org

SSAWG

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working
Group
(Tana Comer is TN Director)
PO Box 324
Elkins, AR, 72727
(479) 587-0888
ssfarm@lynks.com
attra.ncat.org/sawg/ssawg/aboutssawg.html

ATTRA

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural
Areas
PO Box 3657
Fayetteville, AR 72702
1-800-346-9140
FAX: (479) 442-9842
<http://attra.ncat.org/>

CERTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS

For Complete list See: www.ams.usda.gov/nop/CertifyingAgents/Accredited.html

QCS (Quality Certification Service
A division of: **FOG** (Florida Organic
Growers)
PO Box 12311
Gainesville, FL 32604
(352) 377-0133 Fax (352) 377-8363
qcs@qcsinfo.org
www.qcsinfo.org

OCIA International
Organic Crop Improvement Association
6400 Cornhusker Hwy, Suite 125
Lincoln, NE 68507
(402) 477-2323 Fax (402) 477-4325
info@ocia.org
www.ocia.org

Growers Associations

TOGA (Tennessee Organic Growers Association)

Tana Comer (Secretary)
5570 Eaton's Creek Road
Joelton, Tennessee 37080
H: 615 299-0979; Cell: 615-415-2734
Email: ecorganics@hotmail.com

INFORMATIVE WEBSITES

NOP (National Organic Program)

www.ams.usda.gov/nop/

OTA (Organic Trade Association)

www.ota.com

OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute)

www.omri.org

CPA (Center for Profitable Agriculture)

www.cpa.utk.edu

CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)

www.organicconsumers.org/csa.htm

ATTRA (National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service)

www.attra.ncat.org

SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education)

www.sare.org

TENNESSEE CERTIFIED ORGANIC GROWERS

Bountiful Blessings Organic Farm

654 Dry Prong Road, Williamsport, TN 38487
(931) 583-2701
Call for Produce List.

Delvin Farms (Cindy Delvin President of TOGA)

6290 McDaniel Road, College Grove, TN 37046
(615) 395-4566 chdelvin@aol.com

Call or go to www.delvinfarms.com for information about becoming a member of their CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)

Eaton's Creek Organics

5570 Eaton's Creek Road, Joelton, TN 37080
(615) 299-0979 <http://www.ecorganics.net>

West Wind Farms

Ralph and Kimberlie Cole
423-965-3334
155 Shekinah Way
Deer Lodge, TN 37726

Windy Acres Farms

5552 Dixon Road, Orlinda, TN 37141
(615) 654-3599
Small grains, field crops and corn.
Email: acfarris@bellsouth.net

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE- Organic

Community Supported Agriculture is the basic principle of pairing local consumers who want fresh organic produce with local growers. A group or "community" of consumers supports a local farm by purchasing, in advance, shares of that farm's next season's harvest. The farmer grows organic produce for these customers and divides the week's harvest among the shareholders.