



# Organic Certification

Organic Cranberry Meeting  
Bandon, Oregon  
March 5th, 2016

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Drew Katz  
Transition Services Coordinator  
Oregon Tilth



# Agenda

- Organic Certification & Transition
- Rules and Regulations
- Record Keeping for Organic Certification





CERTIFIED ORGANIC



Organic  
Inspector



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# | Transition Timeline (3 years)

Prohibited  
Substance  
Applied

Certification  
Eligibility  
Date

Apply for  
Transitional Certification  
(optional)

Crops harvested after 3/15  
can be sold as certified organic

March 15  
2016

Year 1

March 15  
2017

Year 2

March 15  
2018

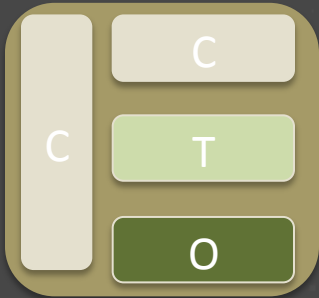
Year 3

March 15  
2019

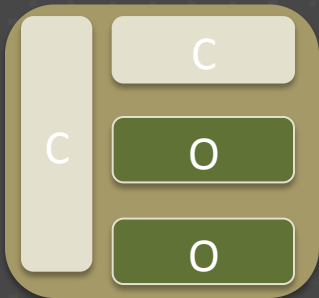
Start Certification process 8-12 weeks  
before eligibility date

- All National Organic Program Standards must be followed during transition period

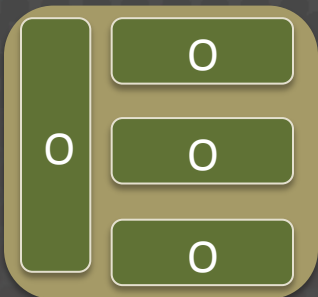
# | Transition Strategies






**Gradual:** transition land one field at a time with the intention of certifying all the land at some point in the future.



**Split:** Manage some land conventionally and some land organically as a long-term strategy. Often combined with "gradual" transition strategy but intent is to simultaneously maintain both organic and conventional land.



**Full:** transition all land at once.

conventional  C  
organic  O  
transitional  T

# Certification Process

A STEP-BY-STEP OVERVIEW OF THE BASICS:

## START

### Submit Application

Applications take an average of 90 days to process, inspect, review and approve. Expedited services are available for an additional fee.



### First Review

OTCO reviews application to evaluate organic standards compliance. We may request additional information.



### Inspection

An inspector visits your operation to verify organic standards compliance. Inspections usually last 3-5 hours.



### Final Review

OTCO reviews your application and the inspector's report to evaluate compliance with the organic standards.

### Certification

We will send your organic certificate identifying your company, category of certification and certified organic products or services.



## FINISH

1ST YEAR  
*Crop Certification*

HAVE LIVESTOCK?  
ADD AN ADDITIONAL  
\$100 FEE TO TOTAL

**\$399** CERTIFICATION  
FEE

**\$75** NEW  
APPLICANT FEE

**\$200** INSPECTION  
DEPOSIT

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**\$674**

+ INSPECTION COSTS

GROSS INCOME FROM SALE OF CERTIFIED PRODUCTS		BASE FEE
At least	Not more than	
\$ 0	\$4,999	299
5,000	9,999	334
10,000	14,999	373
15,000	24,999	431
25,000	34,999	508
35,000	49,999	605
50,000	64,999	721
65,000	79,999	836
80,000	99,999	972
100,000	124,999	1012
125,000	149,999	1175
150,000	174,999	1339
175,000	199,999	1503
200,000	224,999	1666
225,000	249,999	1829
250,000	299,999	2029
300,000	399,999	2279
400,000	499,999	2500
500,000	2,000,000	\$2500 plus .1% (.001) on sales between \$500,000 and \$2,000,000
Farms with a gross income over 2,000,000		\$4000 plus .05% (.0005) on sales over \$2,000,000 with a maximum fee of \$10,000





United States Department of Agriculture

# USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

## Agricultural Marketing Service

Making Organic Certification Affordable

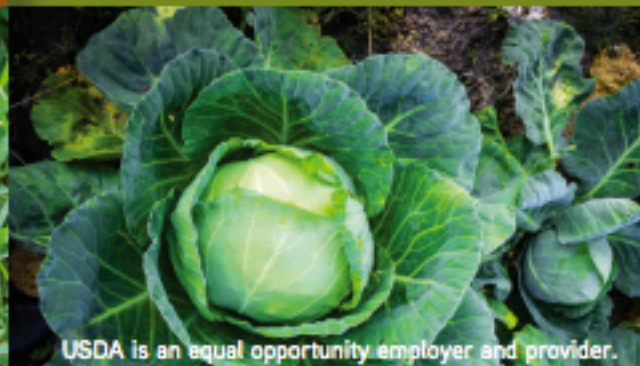
You're Certified...Now Get Reimbursed!



**1** Contact Your  
State Agency

**2** Submit  
Information

**3** Get  
Reimbursed



USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Learn more about the Organic Certification Cost Share Programs at <http://bit.ly/CostShareGen>

# | Transition Certification

- Apply after 1 year without a prohibited substance
- Application, inspection and certification fees same as organic certification
- Cannot use the term organic



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## 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.



# EQIP Organic Initiative

- Financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices and planning to address resource concerns.
- Maximum of \$20,000 per fiscal year AND no more than \$80,000 over a rolling six year
- Project Examples
  - Develop a conservation plan
  - Establish buffer zones
  - Minimize erosion
  - Improve irrigation efficiency
  - Insert pollinator habitat
  - ...and more







# Transition Services

- One on one phone and email support
- Resource Library
- Transition to Organic Network

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Contact: Drew Katz at [drew@tilth.org](mailto:drew@tilth.org)