



Natural Resource and Biodiversity Conservation

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Webinar Purpose & Background

- Introduce new USDA organic guidance
- USDA National Organic Program & Natural Resources Conservation Service collaboration
- Audience for this webinar



Outline

- Purpose of guidance and roles
- Examples
- NRCS assistance





**Guidance:
Natural Resources and
Biodiversity Conservation
NOP 5020**



About AMS

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Programs & Offices

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- Specialty Crops Program
- Transportation & Marketing



National Organic Program

The National Organic Program (NOP) is a regulatory program housed within the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. We are responsible for developing national standards for organically-produced agricultural products. These standards assure consumers that products with the USDA organic seal meet consistent, uniform standards. Our regulations do not address food safety or nutrition.

Key Activities

- Maintain the list of certified organic operations and help new farmers and business learn how to get certified
- Develop regulations and guidance on organic



Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy





- Market News
- Rules & Regulations**
- Grades & Standards
- Services
- Resources
- Selling Food to USDA



Organic Regulations

- Overview
- [Organic Labeling](#)
- [The Organic Seal](#)
- [Program Handbook](#)
- [The National List](#)
- [National Organic Standards Board \(NOSB\)](#)
- [Trade & Equivalency Arrangements](#)

Organic Regulations

The National Organic Program (NOP) develops the rules & regulations for the production, handling, labeling, and enforcement of all USDA organic products. This process, referred to as rulemaking, involves input from the National Organic Standards Board (a Federal Advisory Committee made up of fifteen members of the public) and the public. The NOP also maintains a Handbook that includes guidance, instructions, policy memos, and other documents that communicate the organic standards.

Regulatory References

- [USDA organic regulations](#). (Los Reglamentos Orgánicos Estadounidenses - PDF) 7 CFR Part205 includes all USDA organic standards, including prohibited practices, requirements, and the [National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances](#).
- [Program Handbook](#) This compilation of guidance documents, policy memos, and instructions is intended to clarify policies and assist those who own, manage, or certify organic operations with

News & Announcements

- [03/10 USDA Publishes National List Petition Guidelines](#)
- [03/09 Stakeholder Announcement \\$62 Million in Grant Funding Available to Assist the Specialty Crop Industry](#)
- [03/01 USDA Issues Response to National Organic Standards Board Recommendations](#)

[View all news & announcements >](#)



Market News

Rules & Regulations

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Services

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Home > Rules & Regulations

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Organic Regulations

Overview

Organic Labeling

The Organic Seal

Program Handbook

The National List

National Organic Standards Board
(NOSB)

Trade & Equivalency
Arrangements



Guidance & Instructions for Accredited Certifying Agents & Certified Operations

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The goal of the Handbook is to provide those who own, manage, or certify organic operations with guidance and instructions that can assist them in complying with the USDA organic regulations. It is important to note that the National Organic Program (NOP) Handbook is non-binding and any citation issued needs to reference the USDA organic regulations.

Available Formats

The NOP is no longer publishing print versions of the Handbook. It is now designed to be used

Do I need to

- 5017-3: Dry Matter Demand Tables for Classes of Beef Cattle
- 5017-4: Dry Matter Intake Calculation Workseet & Example Using National Research Council (NRC) Values
- 5017-5: Dry Matter Intake Calculation Workseet Using Body Weight Values
- 5017-6: Pasture Worksheet: Rotational/Stocking Grazing Systems
- 5017-7: Dry Matter Demand Tables for Classes of Dairy Goats
- 5021: Compost & Vermicompost in Organic Crop Production | Response to Comments
- 5020, 5020-1: Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation Guidance | Response to Comments
- 5022: Wild Crop Harvesting | Response to Comments
- 5023, 5023-1: Substances Used in Post-Harvest Handling of Organic Products | Response to Comments
- 5025: Commingling & Contamination Prevention in Organic Production & Handling | Response to Comments
- 5026: The Use of Chlorine Materials in Organic Production & Handling | Response to Comments
- 5027, 5027-1: The Use of Kelp in Organic Livestock Feed | Response to Comments
- 5029, 5029-1: Seeds, Annual Seedlings & Planting

Section D. International

Section E. Compliance & Enforcement

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Section G. Policy Memos

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Section I. Other



Events

- 03/17 Specialty Crops Program Webinar: "Is GroupGAP Right For"
- 03/16 Sound and Sensible Organic Certification Webinar: New Outreach Tools - Part 2

Recent Blogs

- 02/29 Conservation and Biological Diversity in Organic Production

Purpose of Guidance & Roles



Photo by USDA NRCS

Guidance

Purpose & Scope

§ 205.200 requires operations to “maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.”

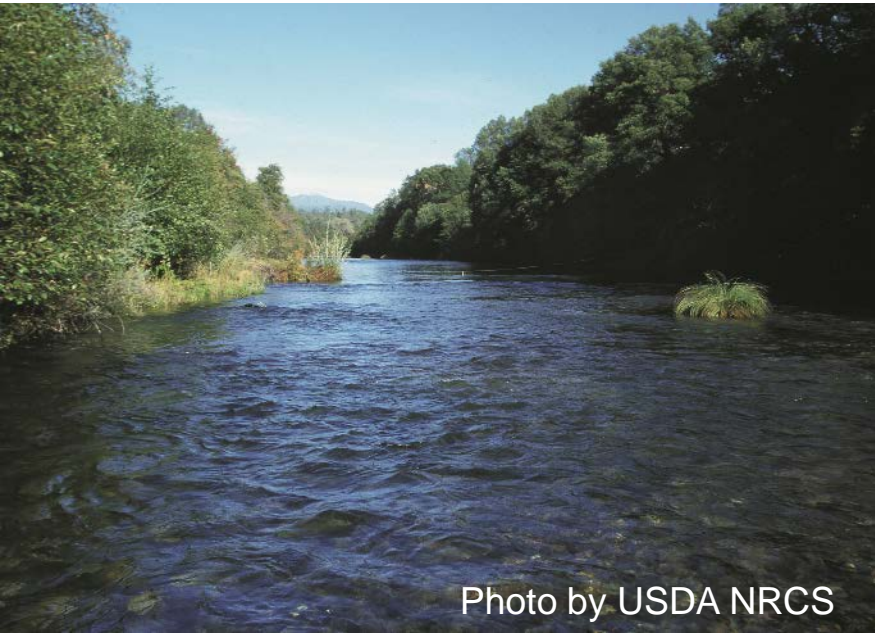


Photo by USDA NRCS



Photo by USDA NRCS

Guidance

Purpose & Scope

§ 205.2 defines “natural resources of the operation” as the “physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including *soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.*”

Certified operations are required to implement measures that support natural resource conservation and biodiversity in addition to maintaining soil or water quality.



Guidance

Purpose & Scope

Given the broad scope of these definitions (riparian area, crop diversity, soil condition, etc), the guidance provides examples of practices that support these conservation principles and demonstrate compliance with § 205.200 (Appendix A: Examples of Activities).



Guidance

Roles: Certified Operations

- In the Organic System Plan (OSP), producers must describe the activities they will undertake to comprehensively conserve biodiversity by maintaining or improving all natural resources and monitoring approach (ex: species counts for biodiversity)
- Producers must maintain any records to demonstrate compliance (ex: activity logs, water testing results, etc)





Organic System Plan Template



December 21, 2015

The organic system plan is the cornerstone of any application for certification and the jumping off point for transitioning to organic practices. This streamlined template provides a guide for highly diversified farms to develop organic system plans and provides a starting point for newly accredited certifiers to develop customized templates for prospective producers.

Resource development: Created in partnership with National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) - West

- [Organic System Plan \(OSP\) – Application \(doc\)](#)
- [Streamlined OSP for Crop Production \(doc\)](#)

Contact:

NOP Staff

Main Office

202-720-3252

Programs & Offices:

[National Organic Program](#)

Guidance

Organic System Plan Template for Crop Production

Farm / Ranch / Business Name

Date

NR = Natural Resources of the Operation and Biodiversity Conservation Management

7 CFR §205.2 Terms defined: Organic production; Natural resources of the operation, 205.200, 205.202-205.203, 205.205, 205.207, 205.238, 205.240, NOP 5020 Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation for Certified Organic Operations: ams.usda.gov/NOPHandbook

1. Describe the **natural resources of your operation** (including those that may extend beyond your property boundaries, yet which impact/are impacted by your farming operation).

1a. Soil (e.g., type or classification, slope, texture, structure, organic matter content, and/or other characteristics relevant to soil conservation and improvement):

█

1b. Water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, irrigation and wash water sources; comments or concerns regarding supply or water quality):

█

1c. Woodlands (e.g., forest, grassland, scrub or chaparral; species mixtures and proportion of area; production benefits such as windbreak, watershed, or habitat functions):

█

1d. Wetlands (watershed, riparian areas, water bodies or storage features that double as habitat):

█

1e. Wildlife / Biodiversity (common, threatened, endangered or invasive species; implications for predator-prey relationships, practical management strategies, challenges or benefits)

█



Guidance

2. Indicate the **practices you use to maintain or improve natural resources**; to foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity, as they relate to each resource.

2a. Soil

- Build soil organic matter content to foster a diversity of beneficial soil organisms; increase water- and nutrient holding capacity and resilience under drought/changing climatic conditions
- Rotate crops; plant cover crops or green manures
- Apply compost
- Create physical and/or biological features to slow water/air movement to retain soil particles
- Maintain filter strips or grassed waterways, hedgerows or windbreaks to minimize erosion
- Maximize soil cover; reduce time & land area when soil is exposed to wind or water erosion
- Time tillage operations for appropriate soil moisture to prevent compaction; improve tilth
- Carry out farm operations under appropriate weather conditions to prevent water/wind erosion
- Use nutrient budgets that consider crop needs to calculate rates of organic fertilizers to be applied
- Manage nutrient applications (material, application method, rate and timing) to minimize losses
- Other strategies and practices to maintain or improve the soil resource described below:

2b. Water (Conservation and Quality)

- Plant crops and varieties appropriate to the climate and region (consider water demands)
 - Manage cropland, field & farm borders, wetlands to increase water infiltration and reduce runoff
 - Maintain or improve watershed and wildlife habitat (woodlands, wetlands and riparian areas)
 - Time & calculate fertilizer applications to meet crop needs; prevent nutrient loss or contamination
 - Utilize wetlands to manage wastewater and improve water quality
 - Other strategies / practices to maintain or improve water resources, described below:
-



Natural Resources of the Operation and Biodiversity Conservation Management, pg 2.

If irrigation water is used: Not applicable; no irrigation used

- Avoid overdrafting water sources; balance use with rates of replenishment; facilitate recharge
- Match irrigation quantity and timing to crop requirements
- Manage irrigation applications to prevent nutrient leaching beyond the crop root zone
- Maintain or improve irrigation efficiency
- Monitor water systems regularly and repair leaks promptly
- Use technologies and techniques to increase efficiency of energy use for pumping (explain)
- Other strategies and practices to maintain or improve irrigation water resources, described below:

2c and 2d. Woodlands and Wetlands (and other habitat types, as applicable)

- Establish or improve vegetative cover to cycle nutrients; filter or degrade pesticides and pathogens
- Conserve/restore/create/improve habitat for native species, including predators of crop pests
- Manage for biodiversity and habitat in non-crop areas, including field borders, windbreaks, fence lines, roadsides, equipment yards, outbuildings, post-harvest handling areas, and processing facilities
- Other strategies and practices to maintain or improve woodlands or wetlands described below:

2e. Wildlife, Ecological Balance and Biodiversity (including Control of Invasive Species)

- Plant a diversity of crops or genetic strains of the same crop
- Plant or manage for diversity in cover crops, green manures or pastures
- Plant or manage for diversity of species and types of non-crop plants on the farm
- Maintain or improve habitat for wildlife, beneficial organisms and natural enemies of pests
- Minimize use of pesticides, especially broad-spectrum materials that impact non-target species
- Select pest management materials that are less toxic; more pest-specific and/or biodegradable
- Use exclusion, repellent, and other non-lethal pest and predator management whenever practical
- Encourage natural wild predation-prey relationships to manage pests (prevent livestock as prey)
- Design fencing (materials and placement) to minimize entrapment and provide for wildlife corridors
- Prevent pest or invasive species introductions by using weed-, pest- and disease-free seed, planting stock, soil amendments and mulch materials
- Learn to identify non-native invasive plant and animal species
- Monitor for new invasive species
- Develop a management plan to remove, control, and reduce the spread of invasive species
- Recognize rare, threatened, endangered species and their habitat; develop protection plans
- Other strategies and practices to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, native plant communities, ecological balance, biodiversity and control of invasive species described below:



Guidance

Roles: Certified Operations

- Operations that also participate in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) activities may refer to a current conservation plan and/or contract developed in conjunction with NRCS or other conservation agency as part of their OSP, to meet the requirements.
- More on NRCS later



Photo by USDA NRCS



Guidance

Roles: Certified Operations

- Practices implemented to maintain or improve natural resources or biodiversity on a portion of the land that is not certified but is *adjacent* to the certified land may be included in OSP, if the practices directly benefit the certified land.
- Ex: Grassed waterways or riparian strips adjacent to cropland can support the operation's overall water and soil quality.



Guidance

Roles: Certifiers

- Ensure the OSP includes practices and a monitoring plan to comprehensively support natural resources and biodiversity conservation.
- Verify that operations are implementing the OSP including observing practices during inspection.



Guidance

Roles: Inspectors

- Inspectors must be able to recognize and evaluate conservation activities and improvement needed.
- Verify the accuracy and implementation of activities and monitoring approach



Examples

A photograph of a field with various flowering plants. In the foreground, there are several purple flowers and a cluster of small yellow flowers. A large, dense bush with green leaves and clusters of red and white flowers dominates the middle ground. The background shows a flat, open field under a bright sky with some distant trees and structures.

Soil Stability & Water Quality

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example):

Frequency, intensity, and timing of grazing is closely managed to protect soil and water quality; animals moved every few days to new paddock while leaving adequate forage and not overgrazing.



Soil Stability & Water Quality

Concern:

Maintaining or improving natural resources?

Ex: Cows have access to the riparian area and the pasture plan does not describe how overgrazing of this area will be prevented.



Soil Stability

NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Increased stock densities with short (5 days or less) grazing periods and longer rest periods (45 to 365 days)
- Locate livestock watering and supplemental feeding areas as far from water bodies as possible
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve ground cover
- Riparian zones may be grazed at an intensity to keep desired vegetation healthy. Ensure that overuse does not occur and there is no damage to stream banks. Riparian areas may need to be fenced as separate paddocks



Soil Stability

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example):

Roller crimper used to minimize disturbance/tillage and provide mulch over soil to protect against erosion and runoff.



Soil Stability

Concern:

Excessive tillage without plan to mitigate disturbance

Erosion issues in one of four fields



Photo by USDA NRCS



Soil Stability

Activities to mitigate disturbance—soil erosion and soil health

- Covering soil/cover crops
- Compost/manure applications
- Strip tillage
- Reducing depth of disturbance
- Terracing
- Contour farming
- Mulching
- Intercropping



Soil Stability

NRCS Reduced Tillage (345)

- Varies based on site-specific conditions
- Use tool (RUSLE2, WEPS) to determine the: amount of surface residue needed; time of year residue needed and amount of soil disturbance allowed to reduce erosion to a desired level.



Soil Stability

Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL)

- Producers participating in many farm bill programs (FSA, NRCS, etc) must be in HEL compliance
- If farming HEL, producer must follow NRCS approved conservation plan that substantially reduces soil loss (RUSLE2 & WEPS)
- NRCS determines if land is HE (based on soil surveys; or soil type, slope and slope length estimates with field visit if no survey)



Soil Stability

Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL)

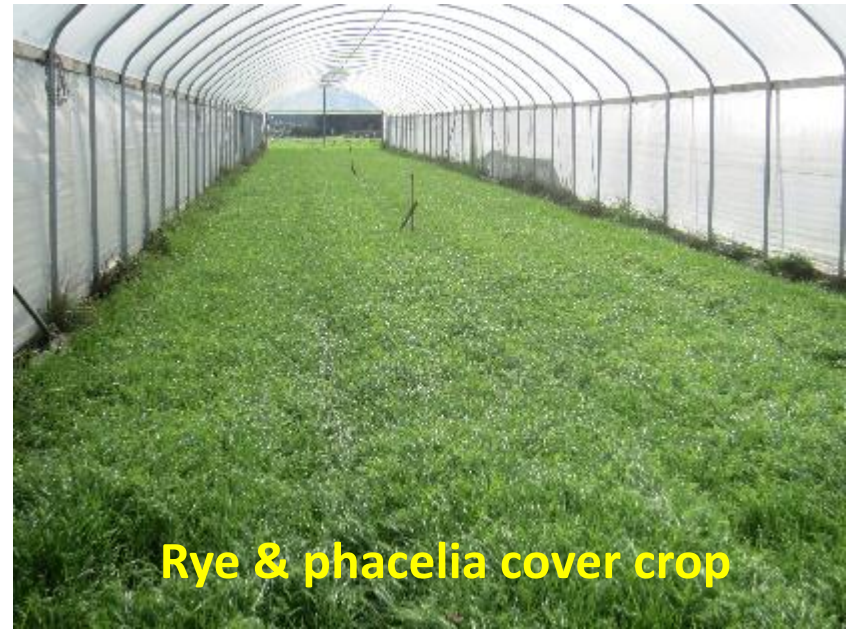
- Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (NOP 5020) *Response to Comments*
- Guidance doesn't require HEL certification (would be new requirement), but:
- “NOP agrees that any organically certified land that is found to be out of compliance with the HELC and WC program, would be out of compliance with § 205.200.”



Soil Composition

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example):

Producer adds compost annually (based on crop nutrient needs), grows cover crops that produce a high biomass, and rotates crops to increase soil organic matter. Soil is tested and over time the percentage of soil organic matter has increased.



Soil Composition

Concern:

Does this maintain or improve soil composition/quality?

Ex: Multiple successions planted, plant residue removed, little/no crop rotation, no cover crops used, specialty product used for fertility (blood meal, fish product)



Soil Composition

NRCS Cover Crop (340)

- One of the purposes: Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content (relevant considerations)
- Cover crop species selected to produce higher volumes of organic material and root mass
- Planted as early as possible and terminated as late as possible to maximize biomass
- To build organic matter, the crop rotation & cover crop will score a Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) value > 0 (RUSLE2)



Supporting Wildlife

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example):

Establishing diverse mixtures of plants to provide food, habitat, or shelter for pollinators, insects, and other beneficials



Beetle bank between cropped rows

Supporting Wildlife

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example):

Using strategic mowing, tilling, and harvesting methods to preserve sites where wildlife raise their young.



Supporting Wildlife

Concern:

Maintaining or improving natural resources?

Little diversity in crop rotation (only small grains), no buffer or in field habitat for wildlife.



Native Species & Natural Areas

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example) :

Conserving and restoring wildlife and native plant communities specific to the site (forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian habitat, and wetland areas).



Native Species & Natural Areas

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example) :

Restoring riparian areas or wetlands to native habitat (NRCS PLANTS database). Or allowing riparian areas to be recolonized through natural processes.



Opportunity to restore riparian area
Credit: 123RoyaltyFree



Photo by USDA NRCS

Native Species & Natural Areas

Concern:

Maintaining or improving natural resources?

Ex: Converting $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of natural area with native plant species—including a rare native plant—and wildlife habitat into crop production land.



Invasive Plants & Animals

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example) :

Closely monitoring invasive plants and animals threatening natural areas. Controlling invasive species before they spread.



Co-Management

**Co-Managing Farm Stewardship with
Food Safety GAPs and Conservation Practices:**
A Grower's and Conservationist's Handbook

Wild Farm Alliance—2016



Wild Farm Alliance
PO Box 2570
Watsonville, CA 95077
831-761-8408
info@wildfarmalliance.org
www.wildfarmalliance.org



J. Baumgartner



Water Quantity

Maintaining or improving natural resources (example) :

Using drip irrigation to conserve water quantity; restoring riparian habitat and wetland areas that absorb and hold water for long periods to support water cycling.



Crop Rotation

Crop rotation practice standard.

The producer must implement a crop rotation ... that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:

- (a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content;
- (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops;
- (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and
- (d) Provide erosion control.

(§ 205.205 Crop rotation practice standard.)



Crop Rotation

Concern:

Does this rotation maintain or improve soil organic matter & provide erosion control?



Crop Rotation

NRCS Conservation Crop Rotation standard (328)

- Crops must produce sufficient biomass to reduce erosion by water or wind to within acceptable soil loss levels.
- If cash crops do not meet this criteria, use a cover crop.
- Needed biomass determined using tools (RUSLE2, WEPS)
- To improve soil quality/soil organic matter, must produce a positive SCI (organic matter) value in NRCS tool



Crop Rotation

NRCS Soil Health Crop Rotation (CSP Enhancement)

Crop rotation with:

- A perennial grass, a legume, a legume-grass mixture, a grass-forb, or a grass-legume-forb mixture, grown at least 2 consecutive years.
- For other years, each crop must be preceded or followed by a cover crop.



Concerns?

- First, producer update and submit OSP that specifically addresses the conservation concern and a timeline for implementation.
- ACA assess if sufficient.
- If at the next inspection the producer is not complying with OSP, possible noncompliance.
- Provide resources such as NRCS (next)



Noncompliance?

- Inspector finds that a producer is not following their OSP
- Immediate and significant concern *could* lead directly to noncompliance



NRCS Assistance



"Sammy Soil" Photo by USDA NRCS

NOP-NRCS Crosswalk

Crosswalk matches USDA organic regulations with NRCS conservation practices.

NOP	NRCS resource concern	NRCS practices
205.205 Crop Rotation	Soil erosion Soil condition	Conservation crop rotations (328) Cover crops (340)
	Water quality	Nutrient management (590)

nrcs.usda.gov/organic
NRCS Organic Farming Handbook



Organic Farming Handbook



November 2015

Developed in partnership with many organizations to support NRCS field staff working with organic producers. Covers organic farming principles, NOP-NRCS crosswalk, identifies key resources to guide conservation on organic farms.

National Organic Farming Handbook



Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (CAP 138)

An NRCS Conservation Activity Plan that helps farmers who are interested in transitioning from conventional farming practices to organic production by addressing the natural resource concerns on their operation.



NOP OSP

NRCS CAP 138



**Resource
Inventory
Supplement**

**Resource
Inventory
Section I**

**RUSLE 2
Inventory
Section II**

**NRCS Practice
Summary
Section III**

Resource Inventory

- May serve as a portion of an OSP, but it is not a replacement for one.
- The producer is responsible for completing all of the OSP requirements not addressed by the Resource Inventory.
- The Resource Inventory, when submitted with the CAP 138 Resource Inventory Supplement, contains all of the required components of an OSP



CAP 138 Resource Inventory Supplement



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program

1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Room 2648 South Building
Washington, DC 20250

NOP 2616
April 21, 2015
Page 1 of 1

NOP 2616

**Supplement
reduces paperwork
v. full OSP**

Resource Inventory Supplements for Producers Participating in USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Activity Plan 138

This document is intended only for producers working with NRCS on a Conservation Activity Plan 138. As explained below, this is a supplement to the CAP 138. If you are interested in learning more about NRCS support for transition to organic certification, contact your [local NRCS office](#).

Overview:

Organic farmers planning to transition land to organic production may be eligible for financial assistance through EQIP to develop and implement plans for addressing needed conservation practices.¹ To apply for financial assistance, producers must work with a [Technical Service Provider \(TSP\)](#) to complete a [Conservation Activity Plan \(CAP\) 138](#).

The CAP 138 has three sections: (1) Resource Inventory; (2) Erosion Control Inventory; and (3) Summary Record of Planned NRCS Conservation Practices. Section 1, the Resource Inventory, collects information on the operation's natural resources and conservation practices. It addresses the operation's management of natural resources related to soil, water, and wildlife habitat.



CAP 138 & TSPs

NOP 2617

- CAP 138 must be accepted as OSP
- Certification staff/inspectors can be TSPs, but that individual cannot perform certification activities on that farm for 2 years



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program

1400 Independence Avenue SW.
Room 2642-South Building
Washington, DC 20250

NOP 2617
Effective Date: 02/29/16
Page 1 of 4

Instruction

USDA NRCS Conservation Activity Plan 138 for Organic System Plans and Requirements for Certifying Agent Technical Service Providers

1. Purpose

This instruction clarifies the use of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) 138 as a complete or partial substitute for an Organic System Plan (OSP) and requirements for certifying agent staff when serving as NRCS Technical Service Providers (TSP).

2. Scope

This instruction affects USDA accredited certifying agents, who provide service within the United States and its territories, for OSP review and verification for compliance to the USDA organic regulations.

3. Background



Land Use

- ☐ **Cropland**
 - Erosion
 - Nutrient & Pest Management
 - Organic Farming
 - Resources & Publications

- ☐ **Farmland Protection Policy Act**
- ☐ **Forestry**
- ☐ **Range & Pasture**

Organic Resources

- Organic & Sustainable Agriculture Webinars 
- Transition to Organic
- Organic Cover Crops
- Organic Crop Rotations
- Transition to Organic Photos

Related Centers

- East National Technology Support

Organic Farming



Organic farming is an ecologically-based system that relies on preventative practices for weed, insect and disease problems, uses nontoxic methods to manage problems if they arise, and improves the natural resources of the land, including soil and water quality.

Organic producers, or producers transitioning to organic, can receive conservation technical assistance and can apply for all NRCS programs.

Learn more about NRCS' Work with organic producers





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Opportunities for Conservation in Organic Livestock Systems



You can [view](#) this archived webinar at any time.

Join this webinar to learn about the wide range of opportunities for NRCS support in organically-managed livestock operations.

The presenters will discuss opportunities for conservation in organic livestock systems from both the NRCS and producer perspectives. They will present common organic management practices and National



Organic Program (NOP) regulations relevant to livestock, including pasture and outdoor access, feed management, and pasture management. The presentation will highlight NRCS practices that can fit well in organic systems, such as rotational grazing, fencing, and pasture management. Steve Normanton's farm will be used as a case study.

In the Understanding Organic Agriculture series, this webinar is presented by USDA NRCS Science and Technology.

Presented in partnership with



Related Files

- [Presentation slides.pdf](#) (3974Kb)

Green Savings!

Click on the graph below or click [here](#) for a detailed Green Savings analysis of this webinar.





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.



ASSISTANCE FOR
★
CERTIFIED
ORGANIC
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to producers who are certified organic or exempt from organic certification.

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.



Questions? Comments?

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