

## National Organic Initiative (NOI)

**Initiative Description/Summary:** Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) NOI, NRCS will assist eligible producers with installation of conservation practices on agricultural operations related to organic production. NRCS has determined that this definition includes certified organic producers and producers who are transitioning to become certified organic. Eligible applicants also include producers who fall under the exemption category in the National Organic Program (NOP) regulation.

- Certified organic producers must provide NRCS with a copy of their Organic System Plan (OSP) and Organic Certification must be maintained for the life of the contract.
- Transitioning to Organic must self-certify that they agree to develop and implement an Organic System Plan (OSP) and provide NRCS the contact information of the applicant's USDA accredited organic certifying agent before an EQIP contract can be approved.
- Organic producers selling less than \$5,000 a year in organic agricultural products are exempt from organic certification. Exempt organic producers are eligible for the EQIP Organic Initiative. Applications should be ranked with certified organic producers provided that they self certify that they agree to develop and implement an OSP.

Applications for the CAP must be assigned the application type of "organic planning".

**Approved Land Types** – The following land uses are eligible for this initiative: crop, forest, grazed forest, headquarters, grazed range, pasture, and hay.

### **Conservation Practices Eligible For Payment:**

<u>Practice Code</u>	<u>Practice</u>
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
316	Animal Mortality Facility
317	Composting Facility
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seeding
338	Prescribed Burning
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Stabilization
362	Diversion
378	Pond
382	Fence
386	Field Border
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip
394	Firebreak
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway
422	Hedgerow Planting
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler

**Conservation Practices Eligible For Payment (continued):**

<u>Practice Code</u>	<u>Practice</u>
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
449	Irrigation Water Management
484	Mulching
490	Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
511	Forage Harvest Management
512	Forage and Biomass Planting
516	Pipeline
554	Drainage Water Management
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
578	Stream Crossing
587	Structure for Water Control
590	Nutrient Management
600	Terrace
601	Vegetative Barrier
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
642	Water Well
798	Seasonal High Tunnel System

# EQIP Organic Initiative Self-Certification Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2013

This self-certification form shall be used by each producer applying for EQIP Organic Initiative assistance. The goal of the Organic Initiative is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are allocated to address resource concerns related to organic production. In order to qualify for the Organic Initiative, a producer must self certify they meet one of the following three categories.

## 1. Certified Organic

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that I am a certified organic producer and I will provide NRCS with a copy of my current approved organic system plan (OSP) and I have agreed to implement conservation practices consistent with EQIP statute and the OSP (Sec. 1240 (B)). I understand that I am required to maintain organic certification throughout the life of the EQIP OI contract. If certification is not maintained, the contract may be subject to termination.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Transitioning to Organic

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that in order to receive technical and financial assistance through EQIP Organic Initiative as a Transitioning to Organic producer, I agree to develop and implement an organic system plan to standards established in the National Organic Programs (NOP) Act (7 U.S.C. Sections 6501-6522), and I have contacted the following certifying agent to begin the process of transitioning to organic according to requirements of the National Organic Programs (NOP).

Certifying Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that if I do not meet this requirement during the period while transitioning to organic production, my EQIP program contract may be subject to termination.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Exempt from Certification (Organic Producers selling less than \$5000 organic products annually)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that in order to receive technical and financial assistance through EQIP Organic Initiative as an Exempt producer, I *Agree to Develop and implement an OSP that* meets standards established in the National Organic Programs (NOP) Act (7 U.S.C. Sections 6501-6522), and my application will be ranked with certified organic producers provided I meet eligibility requirements. I certify that I sell less than \$5,000 in organic products annually and I have provided the required documentation as specified in CPM-440. I agree to implement practices that are consistent with an OSP. If practices are not consistent with an OSP, the contract may be subject to termination.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

D.C. Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

### Non-Discrimination Statement

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