



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Food Quality Assurance Program
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis MD 21401
Telephone: (410) 841-5769 Fax: (410) 841-2750
Email: Organic.certification@maryland.gov

For office use only
Date received
Check info

Organic Exempt Producer Registration
Application Fee - \$30.00

Must be filed annually to maintain listing on MDA's website and in MDA Brochure

Section 1: General Information				NOP §205.406(a)(2) and §205.401(b)			
Applicant Name & Title			Operation Name				
Owner's Name (if different from Applicant)				Date			
Mailing Address			City		State	Zip	
Phone		Fax		Website			
E-mail							
Farm Production Address (if different from Mailing Address)							
Do you have a copy of the current NOP standards? Yes No							
Section 2: Criteria for "Exempt Operations"				NOP §205.101			
National Organic Program: § 205.101 Exemptions from certification The following operations in paragraphs (a) through (h) of this section are exempt from certification under subpart E of this part and from submitting an organic system plan for acceptance or approval under § 205.201 but must comply with the applicable organic production and handling requirements of subpart C of this part, the applicable labeling requirements of subpart D of this part, and any requirements described in paragraphs (a) through (i) of this section. (a) A production or handling operation that sells agricultural products as "organic" but whose gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less annually.							
§205.100 (c): Any person or responsibly connected person that: (1) Knowingly sells or labels a product as organic, except in accordance with the Act, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than the amount specified in §3.91(b)(1) of this title per violation. (2) Makes a false statement under the Act to the Secretary, a governing State official, or an accredited certifying agent shall be subject to the provisions of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.							
_____ I affirm that my gross agricultural income from organic sales is \$5,000 or less per year							
Section 3: Organic Management Fundamentals Adherence				NOP §§205.202–205.207, 205.236–205.239			
Review and affirm your compliance with the following list of fundamental organic management principles that must be followed to represent your products as organic. If the question does not apply to any crop you are producing, indicate not applicable (N/A).							
_____ I affirm that my fields from which harvested crops will be sold, labeled, or represented as organic have had no prohibited substances applied to them within the last 3 years.							
_____ I affirm all organic products are produced and handled without the use of ionizing radiation, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and sewage sludge.							
_____ I am maintaining distinct buffer zones around my organic production areas to protect my crops and fields from unintended contact with prohibited materials that can result from adjoining land that is not under organic management.							

- I am managing soil and nutrients to maintain or improve physical, chemical, and biological condition of the soil, minimize soil erosion, and in a manner that does not contribute to the contamination of crops, soil, or water.
- I am searching for certified organic seed and/or planting stock first and documenting my efforts according to the commercial availability rules described in the National Organic Program (NOP) Handbook document *NOP 5029 Seeds, Annual Seedlings, and Planting Stock in Organic Crop Production*.
- I am purchasing only certified organic annual transplants and that meets the requirements of the NOP as described in the NOP Handbook document *NOP 5029 Seeds, Annual Seedlings, and Planting Stock in Organic Crop Production*.
- I am managing the production of compost used in my operation according to the NOP Handbook document *NOP 5021 Compost and Vermicompost in Organic Crop Production*.
- I am using only pest management tools and soil amendments that meet the requirements of the National Organic Program and the Maryland Department of Agriculture according to the guidance provided in "Navigating the NOP -- Crops". I have completed Section IV "Inputs". While it is true that as an 'exempt' operation, you are not required to submit plans for your operation, it is expected that you will evaluate your inputs with the same rigor as a certified operation.
- I am monitoring the effectiveness of my Organic Farm Plan and the management of my natural resource stewardship, weeds, pests, and diseases in my operation.
- I affirm all livestock, not including poultry, represented as organic is managed organically in accordance with the NOP from the last third of gestation.
- I affirm all poultry or poultry products represented as organic are managed organically in accordance with the NOP from two-day old chicks.
- I affirm any dairy products represented as organic are from animals managed organically in accordance with the NOP.
- I affirm all livestock and poultry are fed only organic feed.
- I affirm all livestock and poultry are housed and given access to the outdoors in accordance with the NOP.

Section 4: Recordkeeping

NOP §205.103

The NOP Rule requires that records disclose all inputs, activities, and transactions of the operation, be maintained for 5 years, and demonstrate compliance with the NOP Rule. Organic products must be tracked back to the field/location where they were produced/harvested. All records must be accessible to the inspector. **If applicable to your operation, the following records must be available if audited for compliance. Indicate all records you are maintaining.**

- Soil test. Best management practice - soil tests should be done at least once every 3 years
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all pest management materials.
- Receipts/bills of lading for all inputs (or in-kind trades).
- Field activity logs or journals and crop, soil, and natural resource health monitoring observations.
- Input records for soil amendments, seeds, manure, foliar feeding, pest management materials (can be part of your field activity logs and field histories).
- Compost production records.
- Field history sheets for the previous 3 years.
- Documentation of efforts to source organic seed and planting stock.
- Documentation of organic annual seedlings.
- Equipment cleaning records (can be part of field activity logs).
- Harvest records that show field numbers, date of harvest and harvest amounts (can be part of your field activity records).

Section 8: Monitoring Practices and Procedures**NOP §§205.201, 205.206**

The NOP Rule requires active management to build soil fertility, manage plant nutrients, protect or improve natural resources, and prevent soil erosion. A diversified crop rotation is required. Under NOP Rule 205.201(a) (3), the operator must monitor fertility practices and procedures to verify that the organic plan is effectively implemented. Plant and animal materials (manure, compost, and uncomposted plant materials) must be managed so that they do not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, and water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.

- A. Rate the effectiveness of your soil fertility management program
Excellent Satisfactory Needs improvement

Describe any changes you have made or intend to make based on the results of your monitoring program.

- B. Rate the effectiveness of your natural resource management program
Excellent Satisfactory Needs improvement

Describe any changes you have made or intend to make based on the results of your monitoring program.

- C. Rate the effectiveness of your weed management program
Excellent Satisfactory Needs improvement

Describe any changes you have made or intend to make based on the results of your monitoring program.

- D. Rate the effectiveness of your pest management program
Excellent Satisfactory Needs improvement

Describe any changes you have made or intend to make based on the results of your monitoring program.

- E. Rate the effectiveness of your disease management program
Excellent Satisfactory Needs improvement

Describe any changes you have made or intend to make based on the results of your monitoring program.

Section 9: Affirmation & Signature

I affirm that all statements made in this application are true and correct. I adhere to the management practices set forth under the certification program and affirm that no prohibited products have been applied to any of my organically managed fields. I understand that I cannot represent my products as “certified organic”. I can only represent my products as “organic”. I understand that products from an exempt production operation cannot be used as ingredients identified as organic in processed products produced by a certified handling operation. I understand that the operation may be subject to unannounced inspection and/or sampling for residues at any time as deemed appropriate to ensure compliance with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) and National Organic Program Rules and Regulations. I agree to pay all costs and fees associated with this program.

I understand that if I (1) knowingly sell or label a product as organic, except in accordance with the Act, I shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per violation; (2) make a false statement under the Act to the Secretary, a governing State official, or an accredited certifying agent, I shall be subject to the provisions of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

Representative Name and Title

Representative Signature

Date

No person or operation shall be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of the National Organic Program due to discrimination because of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.