



United States Department of Agriculture

Attachment B

National Organic Initiative (NOI)

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. NRCS is not authorized to enforce the provisions of the NOP.

Applicant must self-certify, using the attached self-certification worksheet, that they meet one of the following three categories of eligible NOI participant categories.

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

The following land uses are approved for the NOI:

Crop
Forest
Range
Pasture
Farmstead

All resource concerns and conservation practices are approved for use to support the NOI.

Screening is not required for NOI applications.

Business rules for ranking questions are available on the programs Utah SharePoint site: Programs -> FY 2014 -> Business Rules

Niels Hansen is the UT organic initiative technical contact niels.hansen@ut.usda.gov). James Huggard is the program contact for the national organic initiative james.huggard@ut.usda.gov.

EQIP Organic Initiative Self-Certification Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2014

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 USDA NOP organic certificate or proof of good standing from a USDA accredited certifying agent. 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. 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) for the life of this contract. I understand 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 notify NRCS should my exempt from certification status change during the life of this EQIP OI contract.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
D.C. Approval: _____ Date Approved _____

3. 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).

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: _____

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