

What do these labels mean?

100% Organic - Completely certified organic product except water and salt.

Organic - 95% of the product must be certified organic. The remaining 5% can not have prohibited substances or GMOs.

Made with Organic Ingredients - 70% of the product must be certified organic and major certified organic ingredients must be identified.



This USDA Organic Seal can only be used by Certified Organic producers on products that are **100% Organic or Organic.**

Other labeling terms, such as “All Natural”, “Naturally Grown”, etc. may not have formal standards or a verification process to protect the consumer.

Certified organic products can be viewed with confidence as the standards are codified into federal law and adherence to the regulations is monitored by a third party, a USDA accredited certifier.

The USDA accredited certifier is itself monitored and audited to verify it is correctly applying the regulations.

Additional Information

For more information on KDA's Organic Certification Program visit www.kyagr.com/marketing/organic-marketing.html for links to applications, fee schedule, and other resources.



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ORGANIC Answers for Producers

Kentucky
Department of
Agriculture



What is Organic Agriculture?

Organic agriculture is a system that integrates cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance and conserve biodiversity. The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) sets the standards and regulations that must be followed to be CERTIFIED ORGANIC.

What is CERTIFIED ORGANIC?

Agricultural products can only be labeled CERTIFIED ORGANIC after the operation becomes certified through the USDA NOP by an accredited certifier, such as the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

What is unique about CERTIFIED ORGANIC production?

Generally speaking, synthetic fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, other synthetic products, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering may NOT be used.

Why be Certified?

Once certified, a producer can use the USDA Organic seal and market their products as CERTIFIED ORGANIC, a distinction sought by many consumers.



Who needs to be certified?

Producers who sell at least \$5,000 (gross receipts) of organic products are required to be certified. Producers selling less than \$5,000 worth of product are not required to be certified but they are required to register with KDA in order to label their products as “organic” (must not say “certified”). They also must adhere to the NOP guidelines for production including full record keeping of activities, inputs, and sales.

When do I become certified?

Before selling any CERTIFIED ORGANIC products, or when you expect to exceed \$5,000 in gross sales.

How do I become certified?

1. Select a certifier
2. Complete the application process
3. Pass an inspection
4. Be granted certification
5. Recertify annually

How much does it cost?

If you select the Ky Department of Agriculture as your certifier, it will cost \$250 for a crop operation or \$375 for a livestock operation (which includes both land and livestock). For a complete fee schedule, including handling/processing, visit our website, or call us.

What is included in the application?

An application includes: a detailed description of the operation, a history of substances applied to the land in the previous 3 years, a list of products to be sold and a written Organic System Plan.

What products can be Certified?

Any agriculture product can be certified. The four areas of certification are: Crop, Wild Crop, Livestock and Handling/Processing.

Where can I market my CERTIFIED ORGANIC products?

Anywhere. Most certified organic producers in Kentucky market direct to the consumers through farmers markets, CSAs or on-farm markets. Wholesale opportunities also exist.

Does KDA assist with marketing?

KDA promotes all agriculture products through Kentucky Proud. Occasionally, KDA will host targeted meetings for a new potential market that might specifically want certified organic products.

Where can I learn about organic agriculture production and organic certification?

For more information about organic agriculture visit our website at www.kyagr.com/marketing/organic-marketing.html

