

What do these labels mean?

100% Organic - All ingredients except water and salt must be certified organic. {water and salt are ineligible for organic certification}

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

Made with Organic Ingredients - 70% of the ingredients must be certified organic; ingredient statement identifies certified organic ingredients. The remaining 30% can not have prohibited substances or GMOs.



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.

For more information on the National Organic Program visit:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>



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

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



What products can be Certified?

Any agriculture product can be certified.

- Crop
- Wild Crop
- Livestock
- Handling/Processing

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 regulations for production including full record keeping of activities, inputs, and sales.

How do I become certified?

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

How much does it cost ?

**2017 Fee Calculator for KDA:*

One Scope	\$250
Two Scopes	\$375
Three Scopes	\$500
Four Scopes	\$625

** Large handling/ processing operations may incur additional charges.

**Fee schedules vary by certifier*

What documents are needed to apply?

- Application
- Organic System Plan
- Farm Map
- Field Histories
- Previous Land Use Declaration
- Farm Records
- Other documents maybe requested

Where can I market my CERTIFIED ORGANIC products?

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

Where can I find Certified Organic products or producers?

Organic Integrity Database is a national level database that is routinely updated by certifiers.

<http://apps.ams.usda.gov/Integrity/>

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.

