

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Organic Systems

The National Organic Program (NOP) requires producers to develop an Organic System Plan that details the management practices that will be used to meet the NOP Production Practice Standards for crop rotation, soil fertility and crop nutrients, seeds and planting stock, and crop pest, weed and disease management. The Organic System Plan is agreed to by the producer and the certifying agent.

NRCS advocates farming systems that use a combination of conservation practices to protect natural resources (soil, water, air, plant, and animal), promote long-term sustainability, and help move your farm forward on the "Crosswalk to Organic" farming. Producers can adopt many conservation practices during their "organic transitioning" period to improve soil quality, establish buffer zones, and meet NOP Crop Production Standards. Key practices include cover crops to improve soil quality, provide nutrients, and control pests; establishment of beneficial insect habitat; residue management; and composting manure.

Farm Bill Programs Can Help

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help producers use conservation practices and systems on land they wish to transition to organic production. Contact your local office for assistance and information about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

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Conservation Crosswalk to Organic

Management Options to Transition Cropland

www.nrcs.usda.gov
soils.usda.gov/sqi



Transition to Organic Production

The National Organic Program has crop production standards that must be followed to become a “Certified Organic” producer. Below each National Organic Program Standard area are examples of how NRCS conservation practices can be used to protect and enhance natural resources while transitioning to organic production.

Crop Rotation



deep-rooted crops



cover crop mixtures



no-till & cover crops

Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrients



legume cover crops



organic amendments



residue management

Seeds and Planting Stock



insectary plantings



vegetative windbreaks



field borders

Crop Pest, Weed and Disease Management



weed-suppressing cover



trap crops



allelopathic plants