

**Initiative Name and Acronym: National Organic Initiative (NOI)**

**Initiative 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.

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

- **Approved Land Use Types:**

<b>Required Land Use</b>
Crop
Forest
Grazed Forest
Headquarters
Grazed Range
Pasture
Hay

- **Approved Natural Resource Concerns:**

<b>Soil Condition</b>
Organic Matter Depletion
Compaction
Containments – Animal Waste and Other Organics - K
Containments – Animal Waste and Other Organics - N
Containments – Animal Waste and Other Organics - P

<b>Soil Erosion</b>
Sheet and Rill
Wind
Classic Gully
Ephemeral Gully

<b>Water Quality</b>
Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater
Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water
Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater
Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water
Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water
Nutrient Management

<b>Water Quantity</b>
Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land

<b>Domestic Animals</b>
Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage
Inadequate Stock Water
Inadequate Shelter

<b>Plant Condition</b>
Plants not adapted or suited
Productivity, Health and Vigor
Noxious and Invasive Plants

<b>Fish and Wildlife</b>
Inadequate Cover/Shelter
T&E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species

- **Approved Conservation Practices:**

The following conservation practices are required to be offered in FY 2013 to address identified certified organics or organic transitional resource concerns.

<b>Approved OI Practices</b>	<b>Code</b>
Alley Cropping	311
Brush Management	314
Herbaceous Weed Control	315
Animal Mortality Facility	316
Composting Facility	317
Conservation Cover	327
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	329
Contour Farming	330
Contour Buffer Strips	332
Prescribed Burning	338
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Residue Management, Seasonal	344
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346
Well Water Testing	355
Diversion	362
Pond	378
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380

<b>Approved OI Practices</b>	<b>Code</b>
Fence	382
Field Border	386
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390
Riparian Forest Buffer	391
Filter Strip	393
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway	412
Hedgerow Planting	422
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	441
Irrigation Water Management	449
Access Control	472
Mulching	484
Forage Harvest Management	511
Forage and Biomass Planting	512
Livestock Pipeline	516
Prescribed Grazing	528
Pumping Plant	533
Drainage Water Management	554
Roof Runoff Structure	558
Access Road	560
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Spring Development	574
Animal Trails and Walkways	575
Stream Crossing	578
Stripcropping	585
Structure for Water Control	587
Nutrient Management	590
Integrated Pest Management	595
Vegetative Barriers	601
Herbaceous Wind Barriers	603
Subsurface Drain	606
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Watering Facility	614
Underground Outlet	620
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638

<b>Approved OI Practices</b>	<b>Code</b>
Water Well	642
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650
Seasonal Tunnel System for Crops	798
Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	CAP 138

## EQIP Organic Initiative Self-Certification Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2013

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 approved organic system plan (OSP) and I have agreed to implement conservation practices consistent with EQIP statute and the OSP (Sec. 1240 (B)). 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. 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), and I have contacted the following certifying agent to begin the process of transitioning to organic according to requirements of the National Organic Programs (NOP)

Certifying Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. 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), and 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 implement practices that are consistent with an OSP. If practices are not consistent with an OSP, the contract may be subject to termination.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

D.C. Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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