



## ORGANIC SYSTEM PLAN- CROP PRODUCERS

Business Name:

Certification Number:

### Section D. Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrient Management

[NOS 205.203, 205.205]

Organic standards require producers to implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of the soil and minimize erosion.

Organic standards also require producers to manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through crop rotations, cover crops, and applications of plant and animal material. Additionally, you must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter while minimizing contamination of crops, soil, and water.

#### 1. How will you monitor soil health, including soil organic matter?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil testing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Observation of plant health | <input type="checkbox"/> Microbiologic testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant tissue testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Crop quality                | <input type="checkbox"/> Crop yields           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observation of soil  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):     |  |

1a. How often you take these tests or make these observations?

#### 2. How will you manage soil health?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual crop rotation | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal manure                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil amendments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover crops          | <input type="checkbox"/> Green manure                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil inoculants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fallow rotations     | <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate crop/pruning residues | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulching        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock minerals        | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost Tea     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foliar fertilizers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):           |  |

#### 3. Check all of the tillage practices used on your farm to manage soil fertility.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No till       | <input type="checkbox"/> Contour farming                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced till  | <input type="checkbox"/> Moisture monitoring prior to tillage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal till | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge till    |   |



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4. Do you have any micronutrient soil deficiencies on your farm?  Yes  No

4a. If yes, please describe.

4b. How will you monitor excess and deficient micronutrients? Include a description of records you maintain.

**Tip!** You must have documented deficiencies before using synthetic micronutrients [NOS 205.601(j)(6)]. List all fertility materials that you plan to use in the Materials Inventory.

### Compost

5. Do you use compost, compost tea or vermicompost that is *not* registered with WSDA or OMRI for organic crop production?  Yes  No

5a. If yes, does the product contain manure?  Yes  No

i. If yes, will it be applied to crops intended for human consumption?  Yes  No

ii. If yes, will it be applied to crops where the harvestable portion of the crop comes into contact with the soil?  Yes  No

iii. If yes, when will the product be applied?

Less than 90 days prior to harvest  
 Between 90 and 120 days prior to harvest  
 More than 120 days prior to harvest

5b. If yes, describe how the composting process and recordkeeping complies with the USDA organic regulations (NOS 205.203).

6. Check how you apply compost tea:

Foliar  Soil  No compost tea applied



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**Tip!** You must maintain records and make records available for your inspector:

- ✓ verifying compost production meets USDA organic standards section 205.203(c)(2).
- ✓ verifying that vermicompost production meets USDA organic guidance National Organic Policy 5021.

Copies of the above regulations are available on the USDA National Organic Program website, or by contacting our office. Failure to have verification of compliance for compost containing animal manure will restrict the application date of the compost product.

**Tip!** List all feed stocks and purchased compost products in the Materials Inventory.

### Manure

7. Do you plan to use raw, aged, liquid or digested animal manure? *If no, skip to next section.*  Yes  No
- 7a. If yes, will it be applied to crops intended for human consumption?  Yes  No
- 7b. If yes, will it be applied to crops where the harvestable portion of the crop comes into contact with the soil?  Yes  No
- 7c. If yes, when will the product be applied?
- Less than 90 days prior to harvest
  - Between 90 and 120 days prior to harvest
  - More than 120 days prior to harvest

**Tip!** Animal manure that is not composted to NOS 205.203 requirements, must be:

- ✓ Applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption; or
- ✓ Incorporated into the soil 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with soil surface or soil particles; or
- ✓ Incorporated into the soil 90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact with soil surface or soil particles

You must maintain records verifying application dates of non-composted animal manure products and crop harvest dates.