



ORGANIC SYSTEM PLAN– CROP PRODUCERS

Business Name:	Certification Number:
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Section E. Natural Resources and Biological Diversity	[NOS 205.200, 205.205, 205.206]
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Crop Rotation and Biological Diversity

Tip! Crop rotation systems must maintain or improve soil organic matter content; provide for weed, pest, and disease management in crops; manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and provide erosion control. For more information about the crop rotation standard, see the WSDA fact sheet on crop rotation in organic production (AGR 3004).

1. Will you produce annual crops on certified land? Yes No

1a. If yes, describe your planned crop rotation sequence.

1b. If yes, describe the records you maintain regarding your crop rotation strategies.

2. Will you produce perennial crops on certified land? Yes No

Tip! Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation.



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3. Which of the following practices will you use to maintain biological diversity on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested?

In-field management:

- Alley cropping
- Annual crop rotation
- Conservation cover
- Cover crop
- Hedgerow planting

Landscape management:

- Brush management
- Early successional habitat development/management
- Field border
- Restoration and management of rare or declining habitats
- Structure for wildlife
- Tree/Shrub establishment
- Upland wildlife habitat management
- Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment

Adjacent waterway management:

- Channel bank vegetation
- Riparian forest buffer
- Riparian herbaceous cover
- Shallow water development and management
- Spring development
- Stream habitat improvement and management
- Streambank and shoreline protection
- Wetland wildlife habitat management

4. Are there any other practices you use to maintain biological diversity?

Yes

No

4a. If yes, describe the practices

Natural Resource Conservation

Tip! Organic production is a system that is managed to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological & mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, & conserve biodiversity.

- ✓ Natural resources are the physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.
- ✓ Organic operations must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.
- ✓ The producer must initiate practices to support biodiversity and avoid, to the extent practicable, any activities that would diminish it.
- ✓ You may consider natural resource conservation practices on land adjacent to your certified site if you manage the adjacent land and the practices directly benefit the organic site.



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Sheet, Rill or Wind Erosion

5. Is permanent ground cover established on at least 90% at each site where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

6. Is the slope of the land less than 10% at each site where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

If you answered **Yes** to both of these questions skip to the next area of concern—*Inefficient use of Irrigation Water*

7. Do you have a third-party conservation plan addressing this area of concern? Yes No

7a. If yes, note the type of conservation plan below **and** attach a copy of your current plan as part of your organic system plan

7b. If no, identify which of the following practices you use on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested to maintain or improve soil stability.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alley cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross wind trap strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual crop rotation | <input type="checkbox"/> Field border | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbaceous wind barriers | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour buffer strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation water management | <input type="checkbox"/> Row arrangement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Lined waterway or outlet | <input type="checkbox"/> Strip-cropping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover crop | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulching | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetative barriers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical area planting | <input type="checkbox"/> No till | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross wind ridges | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): | | |

Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

8. Do you irrigate sites where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

If you answered **No** skip to the next area of concern— *Excess Nutrients in Surface and Ground Waters*



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9. Which of the following irrigation sources are used on your farm?

- Municipal / County Irrigation District (include name):
 Private Well Other (please specify):
 Public or Shared Well

10. Are herbicides or fungicides applied to control growth in or along irrigation channels or canals that supply water to your operation? Yes No N/A—*Irrigation water is not supplied by channel or canal*

10a. If yes, how do you ensure that prohibited materials in the water supply do not contaminate your organic crops? Include a description of records you will keep to document compliance.

11. Do you apply any of the following materials through your irrigation system to sites where conventional or organic crops will be harvested (check all that apply)? Yes No

- Fertilizers Irrigation system cleaners
 Pre-harvest crop sanitizers Other (please specify):

11a. If yes, are all the materials allowed for use in organic production? Yes No

i. If no, describe your practices to prevent contamination to organic crops.



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12. Do you have a third-party conservation plan addressing inefficient use of irrigation water? Yes No

12a. If yes, note the type of conservation plan below **and** attach a copy of your current plan as part of your organic system plan

12b. If no, identify which of the following practices you use on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested to improve irrigation water use efficiency.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alley cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross wind trap strips | <input type="checkbox"/> No till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual crop rotation | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation reservoir | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour buffer strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation water management | <input type="checkbox"/> Row arrangement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro-irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwater recovery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover crop | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulching | <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): | | |

13. How will you monitor use of irrigation water on sites where organic crops will be harvested? Include a description of records you maintain.

Excess Nutrients in Surface and Ground Waters

14. Do you apply nutrients to sites where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

15. Do you pasture livestock on sites where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

15a. If yes, indicate which type of livestock are being pastured.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

If you answered **No** to both of these questions skip to the next area of concern—*Pesticides Transported to Surface and Ground Waters*



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16. Do you have a third-party conservation plan addressing this area of concern? Yes No

16a. If yes, note the type of conservation plan below **and** attach a copy of your current plan as part of your organic system plan

16b. If no, identify which of the following practices you use on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested to maintain or improve water quality in terms of nutrient contaminants.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alley cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy use area protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation water management | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian forest buffer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour buffer strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Lined waterway or outlet | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian herbaceous cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro-irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream crossing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field border | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient management | <input type="checkbox"/> Strip-cropping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filter strip | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwater recovery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassed waterway | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree/Shrub establishment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | | |

17. How will you monitor water quality in terms of nutrient contaminants on sites where certified crops will be harvested? Include a description of records you maintain.

Pesticides Transported to Surface and Ground Waters

18. Do you apply pest, disease, or weed control materials to sites where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

If you answered **No** skip to the next area of concern—*Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters*



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19. Do you have a third-party conservation plan addressing this area of concern? Yes No

19a. If yes, note the type of conservation plan below **and** attach a copy of your current plan as part of your organic system plan

19b. If no, identify which of the following practices you use on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested to maintain or improve water quality in terms of pesticide contaminants.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agrichemical handling facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy use area protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal till |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alley cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated pest management | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian forest buffer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour buffer strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation water management | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian herbaceous cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Lined waterway or outlet | <input type="checkbox"/> Strip-cropping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filter strip | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro-irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwater recovery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassed waterway | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree/Shrub establishment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | | |

20. How will you monitor water quality in terms of pesticide contaminants on sites where organic crops will be harvested? Include a description of records you maintain.

Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters

21. Are streams, shorelines, or irrigation channels on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

22. Are gullies present on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested? Yes No

If you answered **No** to both of these questions skip to the end of this section



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23. Do you have a third-party conservation plan addressing this area of concern? Yes No

23a. If yes, note the type of conservation plan below **and** attach a copy of your current plan as part of your organic system plan

23b. If no, identify which of the following practices you use on or adjacent to sites where organic crops will be harvested to maintain or improve water quality in terms of sedimentation.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channel bank vegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy use area protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian herbaceous cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation water management | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream crossing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour buffer strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Lined waterway or outlet | <input type="checkbox"/> Streambank and shoreline protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contour farming | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwater recovery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filter strip | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal till | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree/Shrub establishment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassed waterway | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian forest buffer | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetative barriers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | | <input type="checkbox"/> Water and sediment control basin |

24. How will you monitor water quality in terms of sedimentation on sites where organic crops will be harvested? Include a description of records you maintain.