



PennState Law

Center for Agricultural
and Shale Law

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Understanding Agricultural Law Webinar Series

Understanding Agricultural Law

Webinar Series

Understanding the Basics of

Organic Production

March 22, 2024





Understanding Agricultural Law

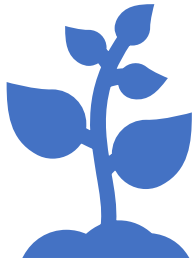
**A Legal Educational Series for General Practice Attorneys and Business
Advisors Representing Agricultural and Rural Clients**

This webinar series is specifically tailored to create subject matter literacy and competence on fundamental issues of agricultural law for attorneys, advisors, and service providers to agricultural producers and agri-businesses.





What is the Difference?



Organic



Sustainable



Fair Trade

Sustainable Agriculture

A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING



- 1 PRECISION CHEMICAL APPLICATION
- 2 CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
- 3 TERRACES
- 4 SCOUTING

- 5 COVER CROPS
- 6 CROP ROTATION / DIVERSITY
- 7 NO-TILL / CONSERVATION TILLAGE
- 8 PRECISION NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- 9 REDUCING FUEL USE
- 10 IRRIGATION
- 11 WATER-STORAGE PONDS



Sustainable Agriculture

- “Sustainable Agriculture” was defined in the 1990 Farm Bill
 - (Simplified definition)
 - Sustainable agriculture:
 - Farming that meets food & textile needs, without compromising the environment

- [U.S. Code Title 7, Section 3103](#)



Sustainable Agriculture

- **Definition makes no distinction between conventional and organic production**
 - Not limited to small-scale or certified organic agriculture
 - May apply to intensive agriculture that occurs on a large scale
- Economic viability of the farm business is required for the farm to meet the definition of sustainability
- Sustainability is determined on a farm-by-farm basis
 - No bright line test from Congress – weigh and balance all of the factors in the definition

Fair Trade





Fair Trade

- Fair trade is a social movement, not a regulatory movement
- It consists of several loosely associated organizations, providing certifications under private standards
- Compliance with Fair Trade standards is enforced through private contractual arrangements



Fair Trade – What is it?

- A method to ensure that our food is grown in an environmentally friendly way by farmers who are treated fairly



Fair Trade

- Resources to understand Fair Trade:
 - <https://www.fairtradecertified.org/why-fair-trade>
 - <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/What-is-Fairtrade/Fairtrade-and-sustainability>
 - <https://www.moneycrashers.com/fair-trade-definition-products-facts/>



Fair Trade – What is included?

- Creating opportunities for marginalized producers
- Transparent & accountable relationships
- Build capacity (sharing best practices)
- Promotion & awareness
- Prompt & fair pay
- Safe & empowering working conditions (no discrimination based on race, caste, religion, gender, etc.)
- Rights of children
- Environmental stewardship
- Cultural Identity (respect producers' heritage & traditions)



Fair Trade

Common Fair Trade Organizations





Fair Trade versus Sustainability

Fair Trade

- Creating opportunities
- Transparent & accountable relationships
- Build Capacity
- Promote Fair Trade
- Pay promptly and fairly
- Safe & empowering working conditions
- Ensure the rights of children
- Environmental stewardship
- Cultural identity

Sustainability

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs;
- Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends;
- Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole



Fair Trade versus Sustainability

Fair Trade

- Certifies fair treatment of agricultural workers

Sustainability

- The efficient use of natural resources and environmental preservation

Organic Farming

Produce & Grains

- Natural fertilizers
- Eco-friendly pest control
- Protects soil and water



Meat, Dairy & Eggs

- Raised on pasture
- Humane treatment
- No growth hormones or antibiotics



Packaged Goods

- No GMOs
- Traced from farm to store
- No artificial colors, flavors, or preservatives





Organic Industry – Fun Facts

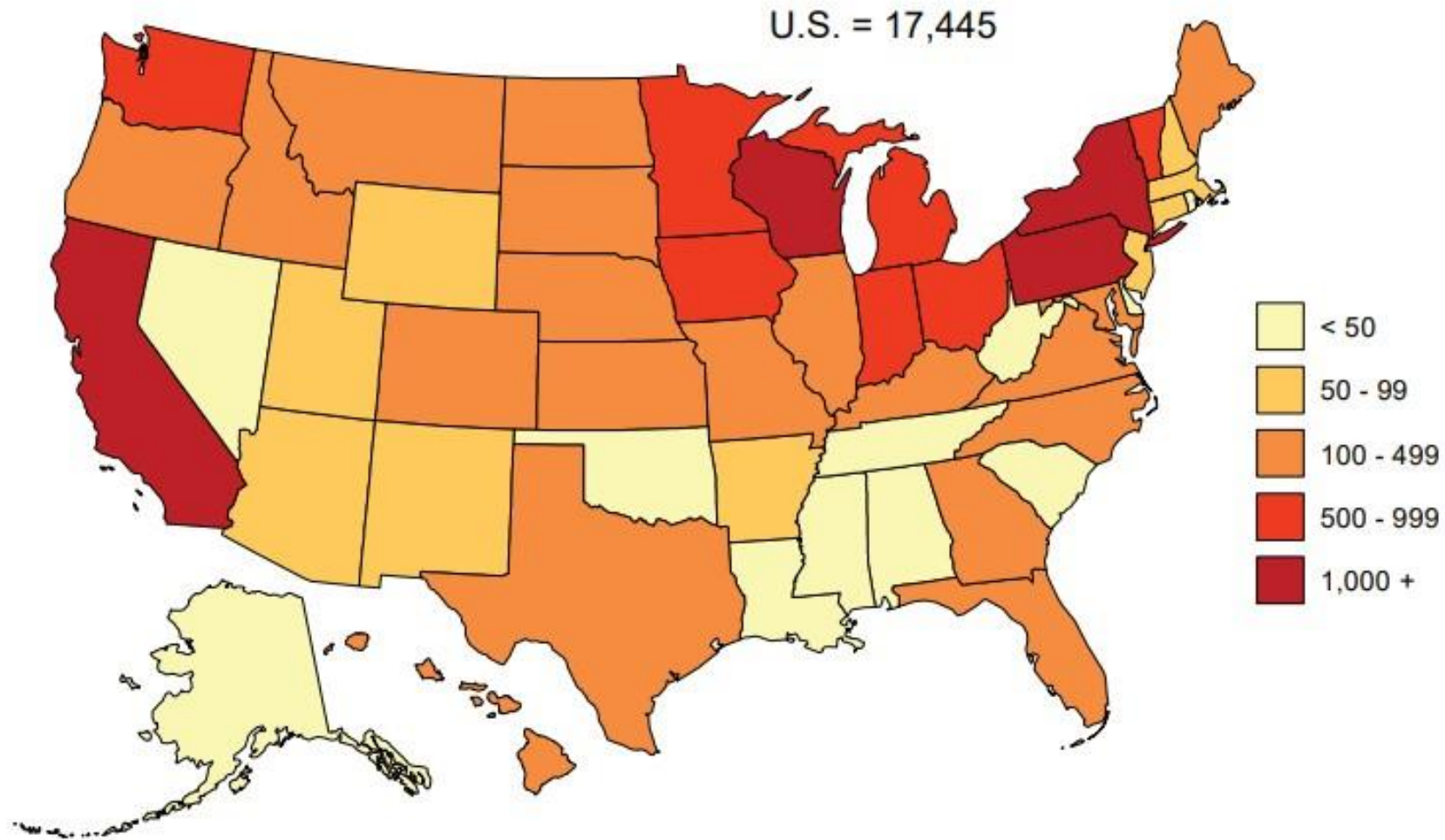
- Fun Facts supplied by:
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
 - 2021 Survey, released December 2022
 - https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Organic_Production/
 - https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2022/2022_Organic_Highlights.pdf



Organic Industry – Fun Facts

- As of 2021:
 - Fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture
 - U.S. total sales of food and non-food products = \$57.5 billion
 - 17,445 certified organic farms
- Directly from NIFA:
 - <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/organic-agriculture-program>

Number of Certified Organic Farms by State, 2021





Organic Industry – Fun Facts

**Top
states in
certified
organic
sales:**

1. California
2. Washington
3. Pennsylvania
4. Texas
5. Oregon
6. New York
7. Wisconsin
8. North Carolina
9. Michigan
10. Colorado



Organic Industry – Fun Facts

- Pennsylvania
 - #1 in Organic Livestock & Poultry, \$730 million
 - #1 in Organic Mushrooms, \$95.4 million
 - Certified organic farms = 1,125



Organic Foods Production Act

- Created in 1990
- Prior to OFPA, there was no uniformity in organic certification





Organic Foods Production Act

- Organic Foods Production Act created uniformity in the organic certification process
 - Allowed for
 - Development of the organic market
 - Exportation of organically produced products





Organic Foods Production Act



- Organic Foods Production Act provisions:
 - Established the National Organic Standards Board
 - Created the National Organic Program
 - Defined prohibited practices
 - Establishes a national list of approved and prohibited substances
 - Requires record-keeping for producers, handlers, & certifying agents
 - Procedures for investigation & enforcement



Organic Foods Production Act

- National Organic Standards Board
 - Makes recommendations for organic standards & implementation processes
 - 15 members
 - 4 employees from organic farms
 - 6 environmental/chemical activist members
 - 2 Employees from organic food processors
 - 1 organic store owner
 - 1 ecologist
 - 1 employee from organic certification company



Organic Foods Production Act



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 - **Created the National Organic Program**
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National Organic Program (NOP)

- Created in 2000
- Administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
- Website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program>



National Organic Program (NOP)

- Certifies products that are organically produced
- Prior to creation of the NOP, all certifications for organically produced products were provided by private organizations, under private voluntary standards or state law





National Organic Program (NOP)

- State officials or private persons can be accredited as organic certifying agents
- Each state is allowed to implement its own certification for producers and handlers
 - May be stricter than the NOP
 - All amendments to state programs must be submitted to USDA for approval



National Organic Program - Steps to Organic Certification

- To become a certified organic operation:
 - Organic production or handling plan must be submitted to an accredited certifying agent
 - Once the plan is submitted, an on-site inspection and records check will be completed
 - All fees must be paid to the certifying agent



National Organic Program - Plan

- Organic production or handling system plan must:
 - Be in writing
 - Describe all practices and procedures and the frequency with which they will be performed
 - Describe each substance used in production
 - Establish monitoring practices
 - Describe the producer or handler's record system
 - Describe any practices or physical barriers used to prevent co-mingling of organic and nonorganic products





Home

Search

Reports

Welcome to the Organic **INTEGRITY** Database!

Find a specific certified organic farm or business, or search for an operation with specific characteristics. Listings come from USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents. Historical Annual Lists of Certified Organic Operations and monthly snapshots of the full data set are available for download on the [Data History](#) page. Only certified operations can sell, label or represent products as organic, unless exempt or excluded from certification.

Certifier

Operation	Certifier	Info	Status	City	State/Province	Country	Certified Products
<input type="text"/>			<input type="text" value="Certified"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter State/Province"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Country"/>	<input type="text"/>
" AGRIDELCA INNOVADORES AGRICOLAS SRL "	[IMOC] IMOCert Latinoamerica LTDA		Certified	Santiago		Dominican Republic	HANDLING: Fruits/Vegetables: Cantidad estimada: Limones Eureka fresco = 150.000,0 kg
"ALEF LIMITED COMPANY"	[EKOAGROS] Ekoagros		Certified	Dnipropetrovsk	Dnipropetrovsk region	Ukraine	HANDLING: Other: Corn, wheat... More
"ARATANIYA"LTD	[EKOAGROS] Ekoagros		Certified	Kherson	Kherson region	Ukraine	HANDLING: Other: Peas, sunflower... More
"ART SEED" LTD	[EKOAGROS] Ekoagros		Certified	Kherson	Kherson region	Ukraine	HANDLING: Other: Wheat, Rape, Barley, Corn, Sunflower, Soy.
"Cooperativa Agraria Y De Servicios Union De Cafetaleros Ecologicos" UNICAFEC	[OCIA] Organic Crop Improvement Association		Certified	San Ignacio	Cajamarca	Peru	CROPS: Other: Coffee
"Helianthus" Llc	[ETKO] Ecological Farming Control Organization		Certified	Pereshchepino city	Novomoskovsk distr.	Ukraine	CROPS: Other: Corn (Barley, Wheat, Mustard, Peas, Sunflower seed, Corn, Alfaalfa)
"KRYVOOZERSK'II OLIYNII ZAVOD ORGANIC" LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, "KOZ ORGANIC" LLC LLC	[ETKO] Ecological Farming Control Organization		Certified	Kiev		Ukraine	HANDLING: Other: Sunflower seed... More
"PARAISO FARMS" S.P.R. DE R.L. DE C.V.	[BAC] BioAgriCert		Certified	ZAMORA	MICHOACÁN	Mexico	CROPS:
"SCOOPS/PRO-LEF" ZOUTOU DE KOURINION	[CSYS] Certisys		Certified	Orodara		Burkina Faso	CROPS: Other: Cashew nuts
"STANDART" LLC	[EKOAGROS] Ekoagros		Certified	Moscow	Smolensk region	Russian Federation	HANDLING: Processed Items: Juice (Tomato juice... More



National Organic Program - Labeling

- "No pesticides may be applied to certified organic crops" = FALSE





National Organic Program - Labeling

- **“100 percent organic”** - means that all ingredients in the product must be organically produced
 - If residue testing reveals a prohibited substance, the product may not be labeled as 100% organic
- **“Organic”** - the product must contain at least 95% organic ingredients
- **“Made with organic ingredients”** - means that at least 70% of the ingredients are organically produced

DYK?

100% ORGANIC

Products produced using exclusively organic methods, containing only organic ingredients, are allowed to carry a label declaring "100 percent organic" and may use the USDA Organic Seal.

(Use of the USDA seal is optional)



ORGANIC

Products produced using exclusively organic methods that contain at least 95% organic ingredients may use the USDA Organic Seal.

(The other 5% must be non-GMO & on the National List)



MADE WITH ORGANIC

Products with 70% to 95% organic ingredients may display "Made with organic [with up to three specified ingredients or food groups]" on the front panel. The USDA Organic Seal may not be used, however products in this category **MUST** be certified through the same USDA organic certification process that is required for "100% Organic" and "Organic" label.



NOP - Land Management

- Any parcel of land from which organic crops are to be harvested must have been properly managed
 - Seeds and planting stock must be from organic sources
 - Organic standards for pest, weed, and disease management must be met
- Practices designed to maintain and improve soil health
 - Crop rotation must be used on land for organic production
 - Cover crops



NOP - Land Management

- Soil Additives
 - Manure must be composted unless it is applied to land not intended for growing crops for human consumption
 - Or added to soil at least 90-120 days before harvest of the edible portion of the crop
 - Sewage sludge or biosolids are not permissible soil amendments
 - Plant material may be added without composting
 - Synthetic substances may only be added if on the National List



NOP - Livestock & Poultry Production

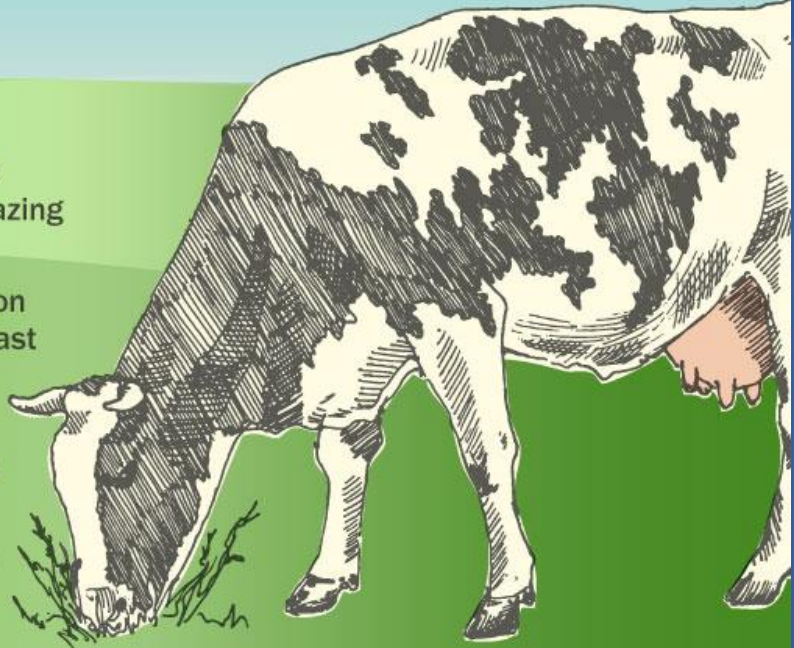
- For livestock and poultry, certain standards for the origin of the livestock and poultry must be met
 - Feed must meet standards described in the NOP
 - Medications may be used for treatment of certain diseases, but sub-therapeutic doses may **not** be used
 - For animals on pasture, a plan must be in place for management of the pasture, consistent with organic standards



NOP - Livestock & Poultry Production: Antibiotics

- Sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics:
 - means including low doses of antibiotics in animal feed for an extended period of time.
- What does this do?
 - increases growth rate, improves feed utilization, and reduces mortality and morbidity
- **Indiscriminate use of antibiotics creates increased numbers of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and ultimately compromises treatment of human bacterial infections**

The Organic Pasture Rules



- Dairy animals must graze outdoors for the entire grazing season.
- Grazing season depends on climate but must be at least 120 days a year.
- 30% of dry matter intake during the grazing season must be from pasture.
- Strict rules apply to when dairy animals can be confined.
- These rules apply to each animal, not an average.
- Farmers must have a pasture management plan to protect soil and water quality.



READ MORE AT [CORNUCOPIA
INSTITUTE](http://CORNUCOPIA.INSTITUTE)



NEW!

Organic Livestock & Poultry Standards

- Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards
 - Published: November 2, 2023
 - Effective Date: January 12, 2024
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic-livestock-and-poultry-standards>
 - Federal Register:
 - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/11/02/2023-23726/national-organic-program-nop-organic-livestock-and-poultry-standards>



Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards

- New organic requirements for poultry:
 - Specific space & stocking density requirements for indoor and outdoor spaces
 - (space calculations can be made by weight or number of bird)
 - Access to year-round outdoor access
 - Confinement permitted in limited situations
 - Porches are prohibited as an outdoor space
 - Weekly ammonia monitoring



Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards

- New organic requirements for livestock (mammals)
 - “Shelter must allow for animals to move, stretch and express natural behaviors over a 24-hour period.”
 - Unrestricted outdoor access year-round
 - *additional requirements for swine relating to:
 - Rooting materials
 - Group housing



Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards

- New organic requirements for both:
 - Prohibits physical alterations (ex: teeth clipping, induced molting)
 - Exceptions: alterations for safety or identification
 - Sick & injured animals must be documented



Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards

- New organic requirements for transportation:
 - Animals must be identified and able to walk
 - “transport system must be suitable to the climate to protect animals from extreme temperatures”
 - Must comply with USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) humane slaughter standards
 - Humane Methods of Slaughter Act
 - [https://www.nal.usda.gov/animal-health-and-welfare/humane-methods-slaughter-act#:~:text=The%20Humane%20Methods%20of%20Slaughter,and%20Inspection%20Service%20\(FSIS\).](https://www.nal.usda.gov/animal-health-and-welfare/humane-methods-slaughter-act#:~:text=The%20Humane%20Methods%20of%20Slaughter,and%20Inspection%20Service%20(FSIS).)



Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards

- Compliance dates:
 - All organic operations must comply with these requirements by January 2, 0225
 - Some exceptions for layer, boiler, & poultry operations
 - Poultry operations must comply with all requirements by January 2, 2029



Organic Foods Production Act



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Prohibited Practices: GMOs

- **Prohibited:** Genetically engineered and genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- *For example:*
 - Farmers cannot use GMO seed
 - Livestock cannot eat GMO feed
 - Facility cannot use GMO ingredient in an ‘organic’ food product



Prohibited Practices: GMOs

- Violations:
 - Operations using prohibited substances or GMOs will lose certification and may face financial penalties
 - However, there are no ‘specific’ tolerance levels for GMOs
 - “trace amounts of GMOs do not automatically mean the farm is in violation of the USDA organic regulations”



Prohibited Practices: GMOs

- How and why do GMO violations happen?
 - Purposefully:
 - GMO products tend to be cheaper
 - GMO crops are easier to grow
 - Accidentally:
 - Pesticide drift
 - Seed drift
 - Runoff



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National List

- The National List includes both allowed and prohibited substances
- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list>



National List (crop production)

- Synthetic substances allowed for **crop** production:
 - For use as algicide, disinfectants, & sanitizer
 - Alcohols (ethanol, isopropanol)
 - Chlorine
 - Copper sulfate
 - Hydrogen peroxide
 - Ozone gas
 - Peracetic acid
 - Herbicides
 - Mulch
 - Newspaper



National List (crop production)

- Prohibited from crop production
 - Non-synthetic substances
 - Ash from manure burning
 - Arsenic
 - Calcium chloride
 - Lead salts
 - Potassium chloride
 - Rotenone
 - Strychnine
 - Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)



National List (livestock production)

- Synthetic substances allowed for **livestock** production:
 - for use as algicide, disinfectants, & sanitizer
 - Alcohols
 - Ethanol – disinfectant only, prohibited as feed additive
 - Aspirin – approved for health care use
 - Atropine
 - "Requires a meat withdrawal period of at least 56 days for livestock intended for slaughter and milk discard period of at least 12 days after administering to dairy animals"



National List - exemptions

- The USDA is responsible for providing exemptions for certain synthetic substances in organic production
 - Such substances are allowed if :
 - They are not harmful to human health or the environment
 - If necessary for production
 - No wholly natural substitute is available; *and*
 - The use of the substances are consistent with organic farming



National List

- Organic food handlers must use permitted mechanical and biological methods





National List

- 7 CFR § 205.605
 - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/7/205.605>
 - “Nonagricultural (nonorganic) Substances Allowed as Ingredients in or on Processed Products Labeled as Organic”
 - Products with these substances may still be labeled “organic” or “made with organic”



National List

- Pest management is a major issue on organic operations
 - 7 CFR § 205.605
 - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/7/205.271>
- Pest control can include:
 - Mechanical/physical controls: traps, light, or sound
 - If mechanical/physical controls do not work:
 - Lures or repellants using non-synthetic or synthetic substances on National List



National List

- Pest management
 - If traps/light/sound and approved substances from National List do not work:
 - A synthetic substance **not** on the National List may be used **if**:
 - “the handler and certifying agent agree on the substance, method of application, and measures to be taken to prevent contact of the organically produced products or ingredients with the substance used.”
 - The handler must update the operation's organic handling plan
 - The updated organic plan must include a list of all measures taken to prevent contact of the organically produced products or ingredients with the substance used.



National List

- Exceptions:
 - For natural disasters or draught, some variances will be granted from the regulations



How Do I know what Products are Approved for Organic Use?

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary labeling program for pesticide products that meet NOP criteria:

Logo with text:



Logo without text:



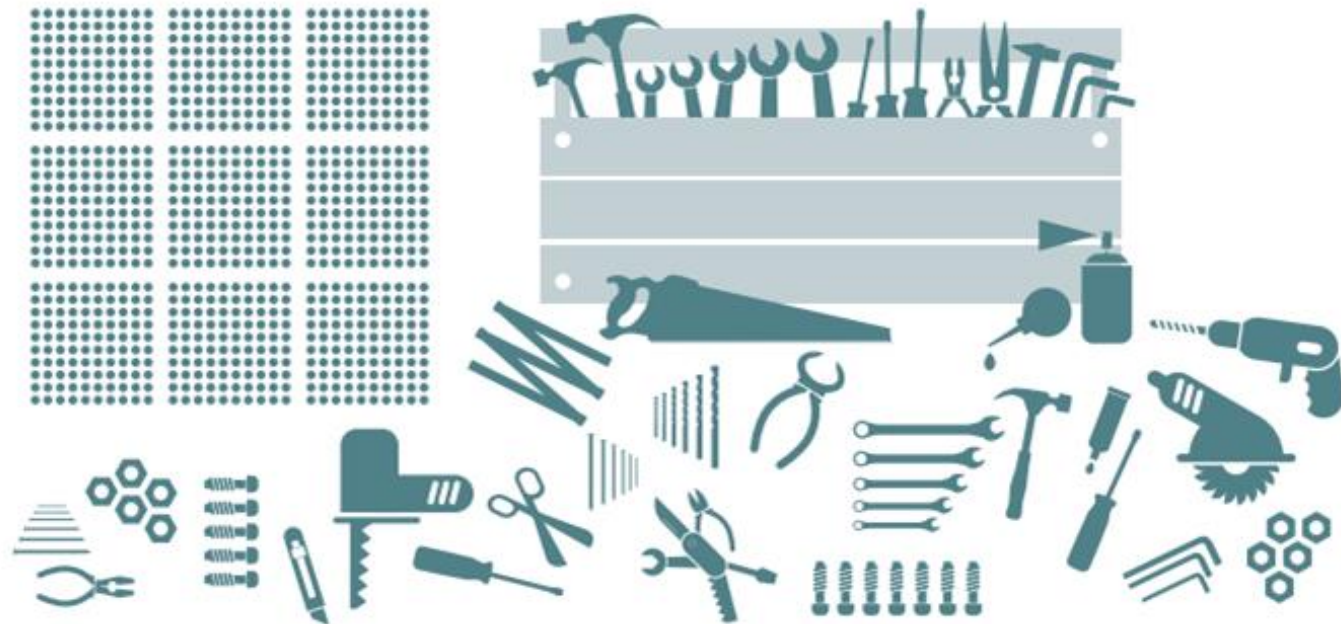
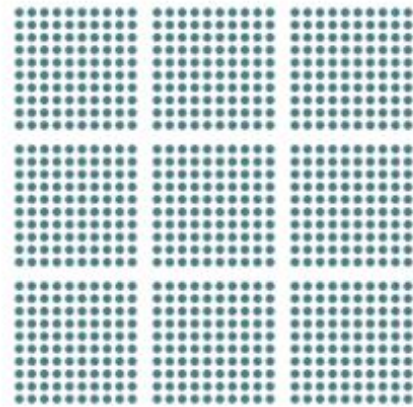
How do the synthetic pest control products allowed in organic farming compare to the pesticides allowed in conventional farming?

25 synthetic active pest control products allowed in organic crop production



The organic farmer must first use mechanical, cultural, biological and natural materials and move onto the toolbox only when and if they don't work. In this way the toolbox is "restricted."

900+ synthetic active pesticide products registered for use in conventional farming by EPA*



*Ware, George W and Whitacre, David M. The Pesticide Book 6th Edition. 2004

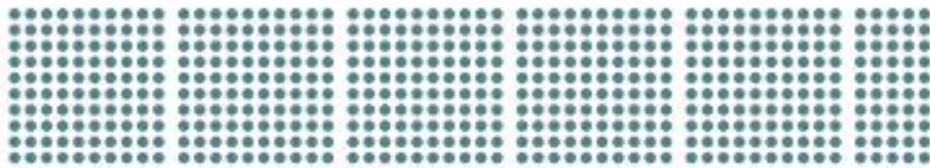
How do the synthetic livestock health treatments allowed in organic livestock production compare to the drugs allowed in conventional livestock production?

37 synthetic livestock health treatments allowed in organic livestock production



The organic farmer must first use preventive practices and biologics to prevent sickness and move onto the toolbox only when and if they don't work. In this way the toolbox is "restricted."

550+ synthetic active ingredients approved by FDA* in animal drug products



*FDA Approved Animal Drug Products (Green Book)



Organic Foods Production Act



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Investigation and Enforcement

- Organic standards are enforced by The Agricultural Marketing Service and Organic Certifiers



Investigation and Enforcement

- Organic Certifiers enforce organic regulations by:
 - Inspecting organic farms/business annual
 - Collecting samples
 - Investigating alleged violations
 - Entering settlement agreements to correct violations
 - Suspending certification
- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/enforcement/organic>



Investigation and Enforcement

- **Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule**

- Published January 19, 2023

- Federal Register:

- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/19/2023-00702/national-organic-program-nop-strengthening-organic-enforcement>

- Fact Sheet:

- <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SOE-FR-Fact-Sheet.pdf>



Investigation and Enforcement

- **Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule**

- Requires:

- more business to have organic certification (ex: brokers & traders)
- NOP Import Certificates for **all** organic imports
- organic identification on nonretail containers
 - (nonretail containers = not used to display organic products for sale at retail establishments)
- Increased authority for on-site inspections
- Standardized certificates of organic operation
- And creates increased fraud prevention

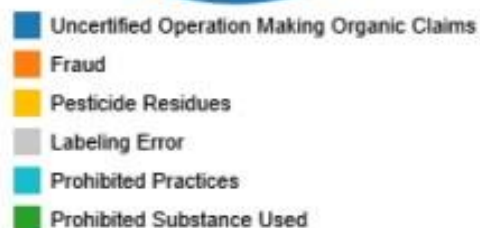
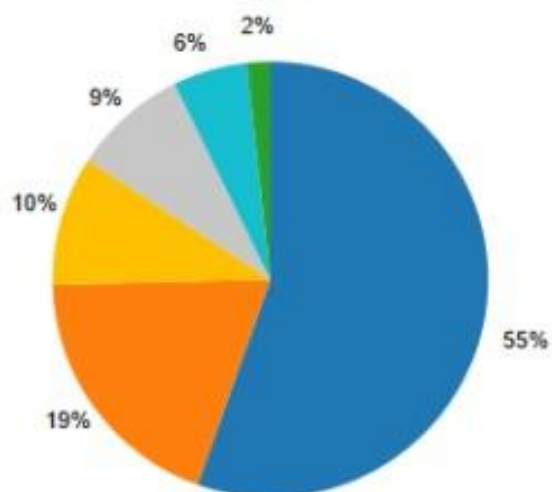


Organic Integrity Dashboard – 3/31/2022

A quarterly review of National Organic Program (NOP) Enforcement activities

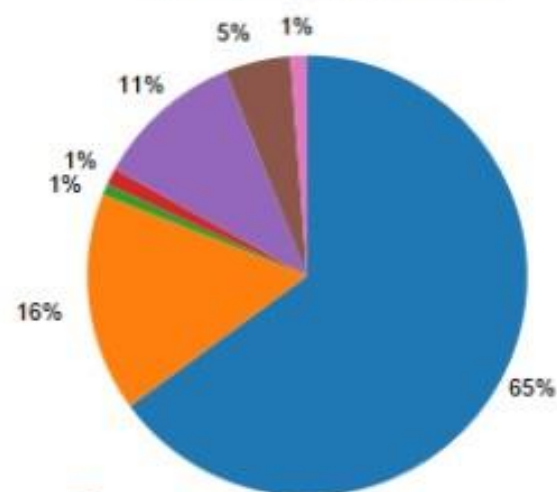
470 Cases in Progress

As of 3/31/2022



297 Closed Cases by Outcome

12 Months ending 3/31/2022



NOTES: Open cases are based on allegations, complaints, and surveillance, and are not in themselves proof of wrongdoing. Administrative Actions are warnings/notices to businesses, often uncertified, and are critical in establishing that violators are aware of the rules, to support future enforcement action if needed.

Government Assistance Programs for Organics

A Snapshot



Government Assistance Programs

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - \$2 billion (2023)
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-organic-initiative>
- Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)
 - \$300 million
 - <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic/organic-transition-initiative>



National Organic Initiative

- Funded through: **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
- Administered by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Provides technical and financial assistance
- Organic farmers/ranchers or those transitioning to organic
- Eligibility:
 - Certified Organic certification from USDA
 - Except from Certification: Selling less than \$5k/year
 - Transitioning to Organic: in process of transitioning to organic



Government Assistance Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-organic-initiative>
- Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)
 - \$300 million
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Government Assistance Programs

- Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)
 - <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic/organic-transition-initiative>
 - **Organic Market Development Grant Program (OMDG)**
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/omdg>
- Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/topp>



Organic Market Development Grant

- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
- **\$75 million** in funding announced in May 2023
 - January 2024 - \$9.75 million
 - March 14, 2024 - \$40.5 million
- Purpose: “support the development of new & existing organic markets... improve processing capacity, explore emerging technologies ...and purchase equipment to help meet the increasing demand...”



Government Assistance Programs

- Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)
 - <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic/organic-transition-initiative>
- Organic Market Development Grant Program (OMDG)
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/omdg>
- **Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)**
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/topp>



Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)

- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
- \$100 million over 5 years
- Funding for non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance & support for transitioning and existing organic farmers
 - Connect mentor farmers to farmers transitioning from conventional farming to organic
 - Duration: 1+ years after certification
 - Create paid mentoring networks
 - Support for technical, cultural, & financial shifts

In the news

Organic topics to keep an eye on



In the news

- Eligible for organic certification?
 - Hydroponics
 - plants grown in water with added nutrients
 - Aquaponics
 - plants grown with water (hydroponics) with fish
 - Aeroponics
 - plants grown with no soil. Nutrients are added via spray to the plant roots



In the news

- “Certification of hydroponic, aquaponic, and aeroponic operations is allowed under the USDA organic regulations, and has been since the National Organic Program began”
 - USDA Ag Marketing Service (1/25/2018)
 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/bulletins/1cde3b0>
 - National Organic Standards Board’s recommendation:
 - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/CSHydroponicsFinalRec.pdf>



In the news

- New Hampshire will end its accreditation as a National Organic Program Accredited Certifying agent
 - Announced: February 17, 2024
 - Effective Date: June 30, 2024
- (certification for producers will continue as they transition to a new certifying agent)



Current State Certifying Agents

- [Colorado](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Iowa](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
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- [New Mexico](#)
- [Oklahoma](#)
- [Oregon](#)
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- [Texas](#)
- [Utah](#)
- [Washington](#)



In the news (Pennsylvania)

- November 2, 2023
 - House Bill 157 (signed) re: 2023-24 budget
 - Creates PA Preferred Organic™ brand
 - “provides **\$1 million** to create a new Organic Center of Excellence, which will grow the state's ability to support this sector of the industry.”
 - https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/agriculture_details.aspx?newsid=1348





Thank you for joining us!

Understanding Agricultural Law Webinar Series Upcoming Topics:

Apr. 26, 2024 *Understanding the Basics of Producer Protections for Buyer Default*

May 24, 2024 *Understanding the Basics of Pennsylvania's Agricultural Area Security Law*

June 28, 2024 *Understanding the Basics of the Clean Water Act & Agriculture*

More upcoming programs from the Ag Law Center:

Apr. 16, 2024 *Quarterly Dairy Legal Webinar: Overview of U.S. State Milk Pricing Systems*

July 16, 2024 *Quarterly Dairy Legal Webinar: International Pricing & Supports—Canada*

CENTER MISSION AND BACKGROUND

Center programs are funded in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The Center for Agricultural and Shale Law is a partner of the National Agricultural Law Center (NALC) at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, which serves as the nation's leading source of agricultural and food law research and information.

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