



## ORGANIC FARMING

- **Organic Farming** – can be understood as an Agriculture method that does not make use of synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticide
- **Organic farming** thrives on the benefits obtained from recycling and use of natural products. Green manure, biological pest control methods and special cultivation techniques are employed to maintain soil productivity.
- **Organic Agriculture** is a production system that sustains the health of the soils, ecosystem and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity, and cycles adapt to local conditions. **Organic Agriculture** combines traditional innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.
- **Organic agriculture** aims at the crop biodiversity without any harm to the environment.



## What is allowed for Organic Farming

 <b>Organic vs. Natural</b>	<b>Organic</b>	<b>Natural</b>
<b>Toxic pesticides</b>	Not allowed	Allowed
<b>GMOs</b>	Not allowed	Allowed
<b>Antibiotics</b>	Not allowed	Allowed
<b>Growth Hormones</b>	Not allowed	Allowed
<b>Sludge &amp; irradiation</b>	Not allowed	Allowed
<b>Animal welfare requirements</b>	Yes	No
<b>Cows on pasture for pasture season</b>	Yes	No
<b>Lower levels of environment pollution</b>	Yes	No
<b>Farm-to-Table record keeping</b>	Yes	No
<b>Inspections &amp; certification required</b>	Yes	No
<b>Restricted allowable materials</b>	Yes	No

## How to become an organic farmer

- The farm or business adopts organic practices, selects a USDA-accredited certifying agent, and submits an application and fees to the certifying agent.
- The certifying agent reviews the application to verify that practices comply with USDA organic regulations.
- An inspector conducts an on-site inspection of the applicant's operation.
- The certifying agent reviews the application and the inspectors report to determine if the applicant complies with the USDA organic regulations.
- The certifying agent issues an organic certificate.
- Any land used to produce raw organic commodities must not have had prohibited substances applied to it for the past three crop years.

## Benefits of growing organic grains

- Organic farming provides more nutrients for the soil through natural fertilizers.
- Organic crops earn significant premiums – two or even three times the price of conventional crops.
- Organic crops are free from synthetic chemicals and pesticides
- Can have lower input costs
- Organic farming practices provide better soil fertility and help protect against soil erosion
- Stewards to the land by participating in sustainability practices
- Promotes biodiversity
- Forward contracts allow additional crop insurance coverage by protecting income

## Organic Certification Companies

- Eco Cert [www.ecocertico.com](http://www.ecocertico.com)
- Global Organic Alliance [www.goa-online.org](http://www.goa-online.org)
- Oregon Tilth Inc. [www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org)
- Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association [www.oeffa.org](http://www.oeffa.org)
- IA Organic Certification Program  
[www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/producersPage.asp](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/producersPage.asp)
- MOSA Certified Organic [www.mosaorganic.org](http://www.mosaorganic.org)
- OneCert Inc. [www.onecert.com](http://www.onecert.com)
- Quality Certification Services [www.qcsinfo.org](http://www.qcsinfo.org)

If you are interested in learning more about our organic contracts, please feel free to contact us:  
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