

This PDF is a version of an online module that is part of the Principles for Transitioning to Organic Farming project. For all of our educational materials, please visit:

<http://organictransition.umn.edu/>

This project is funded by a grant from the [Organic Transitions Program](#), part of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, under Grant Number [2013-51106-21005](#).



Resources for Transitioning to Organic

This material is based upon
Authors
work that is supported by
the Minnesota Center for
Food and Community Enterprise
Department of Agriculture,
under grant number 2013-
5110-21005.

Kristine Moncada
Jill Sackett Eberhart
Harriet Behar
Constance Carlson
Craig Sheaffer

Transition Period

2018

2019

2020

- 36 months prior to certification
- Organic methods must be used
- Educational resources and financial programs are available

Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications
- V. Funding Programs
- VI. Other



National Organic Program

ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations

e-CFR
TM

View past updates to the e-CFR.
Click here to learn more.

e-CFR data is current as of November 5, 2015

[Title 7](#) → [Subtitle B](#) → [Chapter I](#) → [Subchapter M](#) → [Part 205](#)

TITLE 7—Agriculture

Subtitle B—REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(CONTINUED)

CHAPTER I—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE (Standards, Inspections,
Marketing Practices), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (CONTINUED)

SUBCHAPTER M—ORGANIC FOODS PRODUCTION ACT PROVISIONS

PART 205—NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

- Most current source of information
- Includes definitions, organic production requirements and the National List
- Contains legal terminology

[Code of Federal Regulations](#)

National Organic Program Handbook



Table of Contents

Introduction

Section A. Standards

Section B. Certification

Section C. Accreditation

Section D. International

Section E. Compliance & Enforcement

Section F. Appeals

Section G. Policy Memos

Section H. Notices to Certifying Agents

Section I. Other

- For certifiers, and organic producers, handlers, and processors
- Contains guidance, instructions, and policy for complying with NOP regulations
- Good for details behind policy

Other NOP Resources

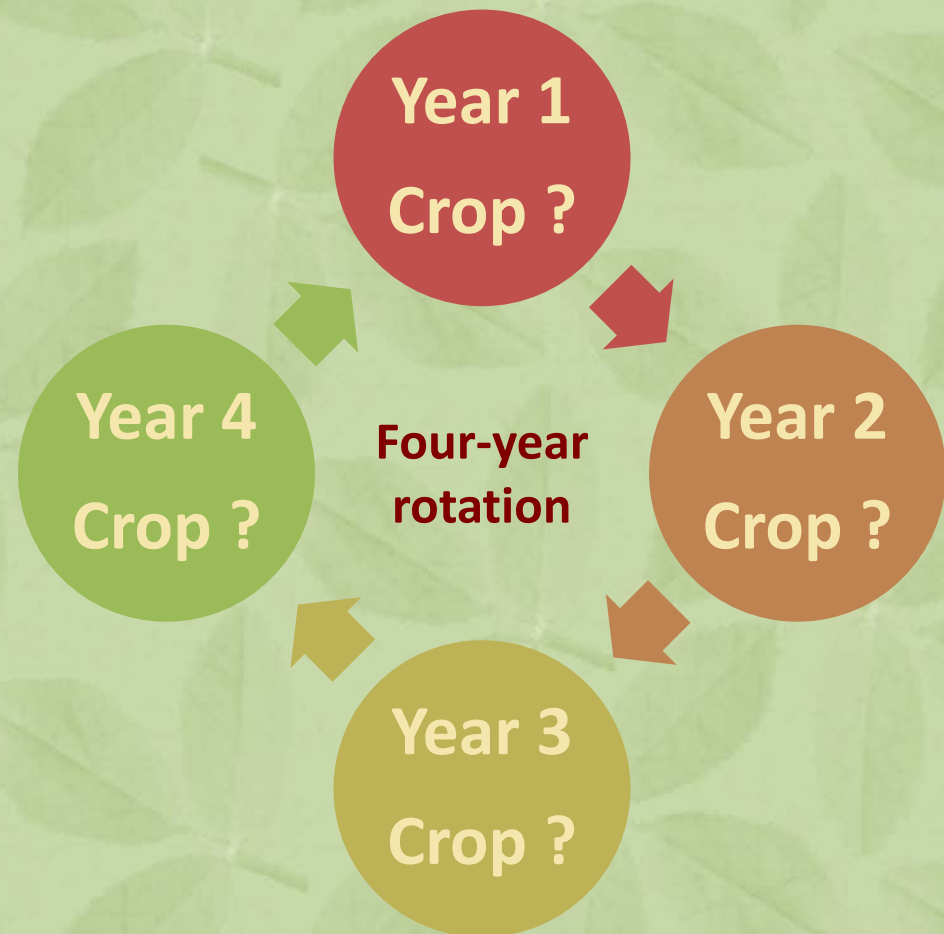
- [USDA Organic Resource Guide](#)
- [Guide to Organic Certification](#)
- [Guide for Organic Crop Production](#)
- [Guide for Organic Livestock Producers](#)
- [Organic Fact Sheet Series](#)



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

National Organic Program

- The National Organic Program tells **what** the standards are
- But they do not tell exactly **how** you should meet those standards



Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications
- V. Funding Programs
- VI. Other



Importance of Mentorship

- Can be critical to success
- Mentors can be an organic neighbor, friend or family member
- Programs exist for those who don't have these



MOSES – Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring Program



- Matches experienced organic farmers with new organic farmers
- Available in WI, MN, IA, IL, MI, ND and SD
- Lasts about a year
- Admission starts in late summer / fall

[MOSES Mentoring Program](#)

LSP Farmer Network

- Provides a listing of farmers willing to network and share information as informal mentors



[LSP Farmer Network](#)

Rodale Institute – Organic Transition Course



- Free, 15-hour online course
- Practical information on soils, crops, marketing and certification

[Rodale Organic Transition Course](#)

Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications
- V. Funding Programs
- VI. Other



Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Minnesota Organic Conference

- January in St. Cloud, MN
- Many presentations and networking opportunities
- Trade show

[MDA Organic Conference](#)



MOSES Organic Farming Conference

- Country's largest organic conference
- February in La Crosse, WI
- Organic University, presentations, trade show, and networking



[MOSES Organic Conference](#)

SWROC's Organic Field Day

- Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton, MN
- Held annually in July
- Field plot tours and presentations by University of Minnesota researchers and others



[Southwest Research and Outreach Center](#)

Other Conference, Field Day and Workshop Sources



- [Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture](#)
- [Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service](#)
- [Sustainable Farming Association](#)
- [Land Stewardship Project](#)
- [Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)
- [Northern Plains Sustainable Ag](#)

Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications**
- V. Funding Programs**
- VI. Other**



Risk Management Guide for Organic Producers

Risk Management Guide for Organic Producers

EDITED BY KRISTINE M. MONCADA AND CRAIG C. SHEAFFER



College of Food, Agricultural
and Natural Resource Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Southwest Research
and Outreach Center
Lamberton, MN



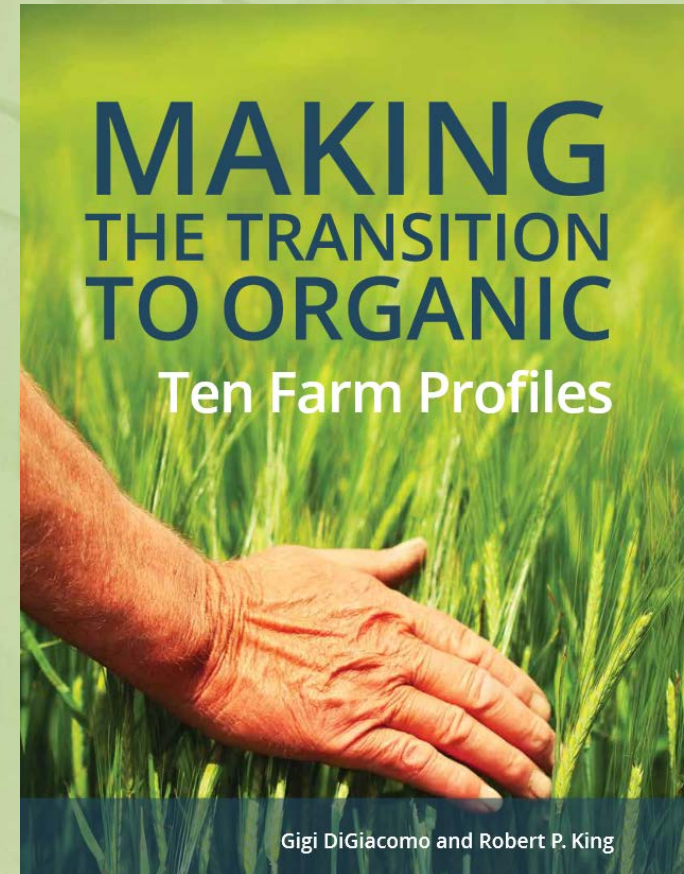
Minnesota Agricultural
Experiment Station
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover™

- University of Minnesota
- Online publication with a focus on how to minimize organic production risks for grain and forage crops

[Risk Management Guide](#)

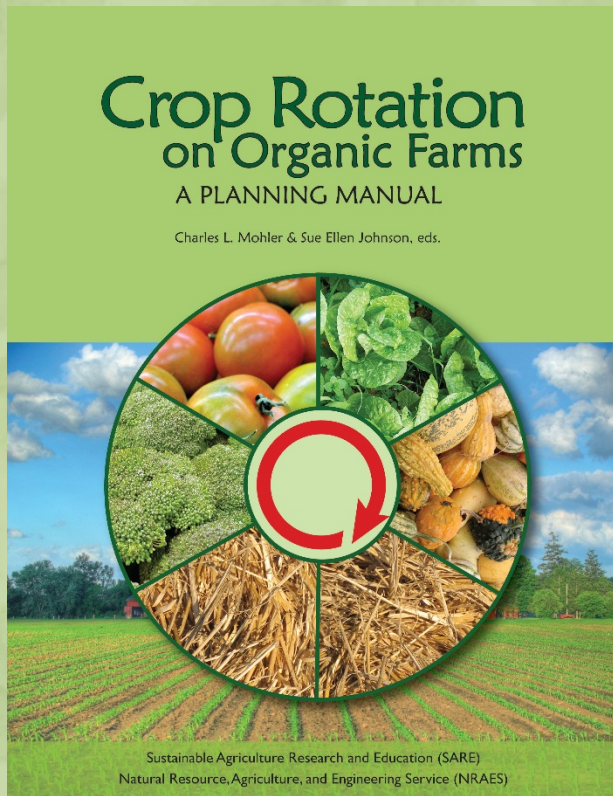
Tools for Transition Project

- University of Minnesota
- Publications include:
 - Making the Transition to Organic: Ten Farmers Who've Been There
 - Organic Transition Business Planner
 - Summary of Whole Farm and Enterprise Transition Data



[Tools for Transition](#)

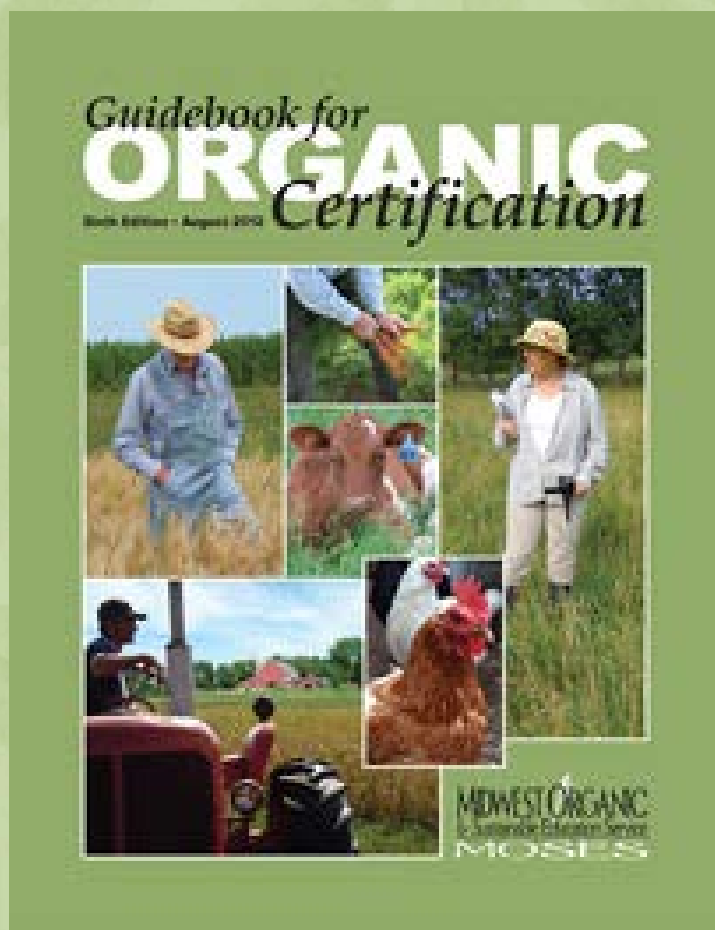
SARE Publications



- Crop Rotation on Organic Farms
- Transitioning to Organic Production
- Growing Cover Crops Profitably
- Steel in the Field
- Organic Production Topic Room
- Many others!

[SARE Educational Resources](#)

MOSES – Guidebook for Organic Certification



- Provides an overview of the certification process for crop and livestock producers
- MOSES has many publications, factsheets and other resources available

[MOSES Guidebook for Certification](#)

Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications
- V. Funding Programs**
- VI. Other**





Government Programs

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and state departments of agriculture provide assistance to all farmers



Organic Conservation Practices

- Organic agriculture has many practices that protect the environment
- New conservation practices may qualify for cost share funding



EQIP Organic Initiative (OI)

- Financial and technical assistance for certain conservation practices:
 - Preserving habitat, soil, water, and air quality
 - Energy conservation
 - Diversification of your crop rotation
 - Cover cropping
 - Pest management
 - Transition to organic planning
- Also regular EQIP



[EQIP Organic Initiative](#)

EQIP Organic Initiative (OI)

- Funding is for new practices
- Some practices get higher payments
- Funding is approximately 75% of cost of practice
- Maximum funding is \$20,000 per year and \$80,000 total over the 6 years of the Farm Bill



Conservation Activity Plan (CAP 138)



- Funds to develop a CAP
- For transitioning farmers or organic farmers adding new land
- A TSP helps you develop your CAP
- The CAP can be used as part of your OSP

[Conservation Activity
Plan 138](#)

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Conservation Stewardship Program

- Open to all producers
- Helps farmers
 - Keep and improve their current conservation
 - Implement more conservation activities
- Participants receive an annual land use payment
- Maximum funding is \$40,000 per year or \$200,000 over 5 years

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Provides rental payments for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from farming
- Includes new initiative of conservation payments for organic field buffers
- Buffers must be:
 - Long-term = 10 – 15 years
 - Composed of resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees



[Conservation Reserve Program](#)



CRP – Transition Incentives Program (TIP)

- Pays landowners with expiring CRP contracts to rent land to beginning farmers
- Beginning farmers must use sustainable practices such as organic
- Could mean a low rental payment for the beginning farmers

[Transition Incentives Program](#)

Minnesota Transition to Organic Cost Share Program

- For transitioning producers in Minnesota
- Funded through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Reimburses for some of the certifier costs during transitioning (up to \$750/year)



[MDA Organic Cost Share Program](#)

North Dakota Organic Education and Transition Cost Share Program

- For transitioning producers in North Dakota
- Funded through the North Dakota Department of Agriculture
- Reimburses up to \$750/year



North Dakota
LEGENDARY
Department of Agriculture

[ND Education and Transition Cost Share](#)

Why Work with a Certifier during Transition?

- It is recommended to have contact with a certifying agency during this period
- They know the rules and you can prevent from accidentally doing or using something that will set you back



Organic Cost Share Program (After Certification)



- Similar to program for cost sharing during transition
- This program is available in all states
- USDA-Farm Service Agency funding
- Up to 75% of certification cost
- Maximum of \$750/year

[Organic Cost Share Program](#)

Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications
- V. Funding Programs
- VI. Other**



Email Lists

Sign up for these mailing lists to learn about events and news of interest to organic and sustainable producers

- [MISA Sustag](#)
- [MOSES Organic Broadcaster](#)
- [OGRAIN](#)
- [eOrganic](#)
- [USDA Organic Insider](#)
- [Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)
- [SFA Newsletter](#)
- [Land Stewardship Project](#)
- [Northern Plains Sustainable Ag](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Agriculture Organic Network](#)



Resources for Questions

- [Ask MISA!](#) – Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
- [Ask an Organic Specialist](#) – Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)
- [Farm Information Line](#) – University of Minnesota Extension
- [Ask an Expert](#) – MN Department of Agriculture
- [Ask an Expert: Organic Production](#) – eOrganic
- [Ask a Sustainable Agriculture Expert](#) – The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA)



Checklist



We have included a checklist of websites listed in this modules

Click on paperclip symbol on bottom right-hand side



Summary

- Take advantage of available resources
- Investigate all opportunities
- Government programs can change so make sure you up-to-date information before committing to a practice for which you hope to be compensated

Resources for Transitioning

- I. NOP Program
- II. Mentoring and Training
- III. Conferences and Field Days
- IV. Regional Publications
- V. Funding Programs
- VI. Other





This material is based upon work that is
© 2017 Regents of the University of
supported by the National Institute of
Minnesota. All rights reserved.
Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department
The University of Minnesota is an equal
of Agriculture, under grant number
opportunity educator and employer.
2013-51106-21005.



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture