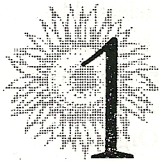


Seven Steps to Certification



Certification Made Easy. In seven steps, you will be on your way to earning the "Certified Organic" recognition. CCOF can have you certified in 3 months.

Certification Consumers Recognize and Trust. When you produce healthy organic foods, you make a commitment to your customers. CCOF rewards that commitment by granting certification your customers can trust.



1 Call CCOF for the Application Package.

Call the Statewide Office at 1-888-423-2263 and ask for an application package (\$25), or email us at ccof@ccof.org and we will call you.

The initial cost to become CCOF certified includes a \$250 application fee and the cost of an inspection.

NOT SURE YOUR LAND IS READY TO BE "CERTIFIED ORGANIC?" REMEMBER, LAND MUST BE FREE OF PROHIBITED MATERIALS FOR THREE YEARS TO BE "CERTIFIED" ORGANIC. HOWEVER, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR TRANSITIONAL STATUS. CALL 1-888-423-CCOF TO LEARN MORE.



2 Read the CCOF Handbook.

The Handbook contains the organic standards that CCOF members need to comply with and you will find detailed information on how the certification process works. Start by reading the *Procedures and Policies*, *Organic Practices*, and *List of Materials* to get acquainted with our certification program. If you are a grower, please read our *Crop Standards* in addition to our *Basic Standards*. We also have standards for processors and handlers, retailers, and livestock producers.

Register Your Operation with the County.

If you intend to sell any product as "Organic," you must comply with CCOF's standards under the National Organic Program and the California Organic Program. Information on organic registration (including procedure and fees) is available from your County Agricultural Commissioner's office or from California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Program at (916) 654-0919.



4 Send in the Application and Fee.



Complete the *General Information* part for your operation and provide 3 years of land history verification. Please sign the affidavit and provide us with maps of the parcels intended for organic production.

Chapter Assignment and Inspection.

Your application will be reviewed by our Statewide Office and CCOF will assign you to a local chapter. A trained inspector will call you to set up your first inspection. CCOF encourages participation in CCOF chapters. Chapter meetings provide an excellent opportunity to meet other organic producers in your area and familiarize yourself with the organization. Your Chapter Coordinator will inform you when a meeting is scheduled in your chapter.



Inspection Report Review.

Your Chapter Certification Committee and the CCOF Statewide Office will review your inspection report and assign a certification status to your operation.



7 Certification Status Notification.

Upon completion of the review process, you will receive a letter from CCOF which confirms your organic certification status. It will also inform you of any requirements for further certification.