



**County of San Diego
Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures**

Organic Farming FAQs

How do I become recognized as an Organic grower?

All growers, producers, and handlers of raw agricultural commodities (including eggs, seed, fiber and horticultural products) sold as organic, must be registered prior to the first sale of the commodity.

I grow in San Diego County. How do I become registered?

Call 858-694-2778, San Diego County, Department of Agricultural, Weights and Measures. The county reviews all forms and issues a registration number after the applicant has complied with all State laws.

I grow in a county other than San Diego. How do I become registered?

Contact the Agricultural Commissioner in the county where your property is located for an application.

What does the registration process require?

The registrant must pay a registration fee and submit the following information with their application:

1. Nature of your business (Producer, Handler, Processor).
2. Gross sales revenues (to determine fee).
3. Map of farm or facility.
4. List of all substances applied to farm or facility for the past three years.
5. Name of certifying organization (if any).
6. Complete Public Information Form including the registrant's name, address, and products handled or produced.

When will the registrant receive initial approved registration and who will issue it?

The registrant will receive their registration from the County's Agricultural Commissioner upon the commissioner's acceptance. The registration will be considered valid at that time.

Must a producer or handler re-register each year?

The registration must be renewed each year. A renewal packet will be sent from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Program; however it is the registrant's responsibility to make sure their registration does not expire.

How does certification differ from registration?

Certification is performed by a third party organization, approved for certification subjects the registrant to more scrutiny than the registration process.

Where can I get more information on organic farming?

National Organic Program: www.ams.usda.gov/nop

California State Organic Program: www.cdfa.ca.gov

(Revised 4-6-12)