

Welcome



Presented by
Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures
Agricultural Standards Program
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Understanding Organic An Earth Day Training Event



What is Organic?

Food grown and processed by methods not relying on synthetic substances.

Organic farming focuses on practices that cycle resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.



No such thing as organic by neglect!

Who is the State Organic Program?

- A program within the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) that regulates the production, handling, and sale of organic products in California
- Assumes the National Organic Program's (NOP) authority in California
- Enforces both Federal and State organic regulations in California:
 - California Organic Food and Farming Act
 - Organic Foods Production Act of 1990
- Oversees all organic operations in California with the authority to regulate an organic claim at any point in the supply chain
- Provides outreach and education to the organic community



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A Complementary Program

- The State Organic Program (SOP) is a complementary piece in its collaboration with the National Organic Program (NOP) and Accredited Certifying Agents (ACA)
- The SOP and ACAs work in conjunction with one another to effectively regulate all certified and non-certified organic operations in CA.





The Value of the State Organic Program

- The SOP's authority is not limited to an operation's registration or certification status
- The SOP can regulate any organic claim at any point in the supply chain regardless if an operation is registered or certified
- There are a handful of activities that are excluded or exempt from organic certification
- And the authority of an Accredited Certifying Agency (ACA) is limited to only the operations they certify
- The SOP also works in conjunction with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to investigate positive residue detections on organic samples



Topics

- Common Misconceptions About Organic Agriculture
- Natural vs. Organic
- USDA Certified Organic vs. State Registered Organic
- Benefits of Organic Agriculture
- Biodiversity



Did You Know?



- Agricultural products must follow state and federal guidelines to advertise as grown and produced **organically**
- Inspections are conducted to ensure integrity



What is Organic Food Grown Without?



Prohibited substances applied to soil or crop three years prior to harvest



Irradiation, sewage sludge, GMOs



Antibiotics or synthetic growth hormones



Artificial flavors, colors, preservatives





Organic Statistic in California

- California accounts for more than **40%** of all organic products sold in the US
- **1.7** million acres in organic production
- More than **\$9 billion** in sales of raw and processed organic products in CA

Organic Farming in San Diego County

Over **400** registered organic operations in San Diego county



Organic agricultural products can be sold to local restaurants, health food stores, and at Certified Farmers' Markets

Common Misconceptions

- Pesticide Free \neq Organic
- Sold at Certified Farmers' Market \neq Organic
- Natural \neq Organic



Organic Registration Certificate

Certificate of Organic Registration

Issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture
State Organic Program to:

Organic Avocado Ranch

Registration #: 37- 11111

1234 Ranch Road

San Marcos, CA 92078

Valid until January 1, 2022

Producer

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has determined that the above has met the requirements for Organic Registration and is registered with the CDFA State Organic Program for the below information.

OPERATION TYPE: **Producer**
CERTIFIED ORGANIC BY: **Not Certified**
PRODUCER OF: **Avocados**
GROSS SALES: **\$3000**

Site Name	Site Location	Acres	County
Organic Avocado Ranch	1234 Ranch Road	1.50	San Diego

Natural Vs. Organic

- 'Natural' carries no legal meaning
- No regulations associated with 'Natural' or 'All Natural'
- Marketing terms that can be used by anyone
- 'Organic' does carry legal meaning and is heavily regulated



Labeling Differences





Certified Organic vs. Registered Organic

- All organic growers in California must be registered with the State Organic Program (SOP)
- Organic producers with annual gross sales of **\$5,000** or more must be certified
- Certification is optional for producers with annual gross sales \leq \$5,000
- California is the only state with additional organic oversight - SOP



Certified Organic

- Organic seal may only be used for certified organic products
- Label must include the name of third-party certifier
- Annual inspections by third-party certifiers
- Modifications of the term 'Organic' is illegal





Certified Organic

Certified Organic Operations Must Have an Organic System Plan (OSP) which details how an operation will comply with organic regulations, and addresses all practices of the farming and handling of organic products:

- Field Maintenance
- Harvesting
- Storing & Transporting Product
- Record Keeping
- Barriers to Prevent Contact with Prohibited Substances and Conventional Products
- Approved Substances to be Used



Benefits of Organic

- Production and practices verified through inspections by State Organic Program and third-party inspectors
- Consumers know how their food is grown
- Natural resources on organically farmed land are maintained or improved upon
- Increased biodiversity

Environmental Benefits

Organic production practices must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.



§205.202 Land requirements.

Natural resources include physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.

§205.203 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard.

§205.205 Crop rotation practice standard.

Increased soil health and biodiversity achieved by incorporating practices such as composting and crop rotation, rather than relying on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers



Increasing Biodiversity: Shelter

National Organic Program Guidance 5020

- Introduce/encourage beneficial insects
- Diversify crops and native plants
- Provide habitat for natural predators
- Monitor invasive species to prevent spread
- Conserve wildlife corridors

§205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.



Benefits of Biodiversity

- More reliable sources of clean water
- Decreased need for fertilizer inputs
- Increased pollination
- Wildlife habitat
- Increased soil health



§205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.

Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.





Thank You!



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