

# CCOF

## About CCOF



***CCOF's mission is to certify, educate, advocate and promote organic.***

### **A Premier Certification Agency**

CCOF's roots have been in the California farming community for over 35 years; our certification and services have expanded across the breadth of the food supply chain, including a wide variety of operations, both large and small. From field to fork, CCOF certifies growers, ingredient suppliers, processors and handlers, packaging companies, warehousing and storage facilities, brokers, wholesalers, private labelers, retailers and restaurants. We certify more than 2,100 organic operations that produce more than 1,300 different organic crops, products and services.

***CCOF is one of the oldest, largest and most-respected certification agencies in North America.***

CCOF Certification Services is accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the National Organic Program (NOP) standards. CCOF Certification Services is widely known for its highly-trained staff, expertise in interpreting and upholding organic regulations, strong customer service and support and, above all, for its commitment to organic integrity. As a result, the CCOF seal is one of the most recognized and trusted in the industry.



### **Global and Local**

CCOF operates nationally and internationally by certifying operations in other countries and assisting our members to export to world markets through a leading Global Market Access (GMA) program. While our reach has expanded, our focus and structure remains local, supported by a team of Regional Service Representatives (RSRs).

### **Trade Association Benefits**

CCOF is the only full-service certification agency and trade association. CCOF certified members are members of CCOF's trade association and benefit from its education, advocacy and marketing support. CCOF also represents more than 300 supporting members – individuals and businesses that share our commitment to protecting and expanding the organic marketplace and whose financial assistance helps us educate, advocate and promote organic.

### **Education**

CCOF publishes a quarterly "Certified Organic" magazine in addition to this annual Directory and Resource Guide. We organize educational events aimed at keeping our members and the organic community up-to-date on industry developments, trends, hot topics and best practices as well as community outreach events designed to increase public awareness of, demand for, and support of certified organic products. The CCOF website has information on what organic means, how to become certified organic, policy and advocacy initiatives and our events. Our goal is to grow the marketplace by teaching consumers about the benefits of buying organic.

### **The CCOF Foundation**

In 2001, the CCOF Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was created to expand CCOF's education and outreach activities. The mission of the CCOF Foundation is to protect the environment and enhance human health by promoting the production and consumption of nutritious organic food. The Foundation aims to:

- support organic farmers' efforts to conserve biodiversity.
- accelerate the transition to organic agriculture.
- educate consumers about the benefits of organic food and farming.

For more information visit: [www.ccof.org/foundation.php](http://www.ccof.org/foundation.php)



### Advocacy

CCOF leads the organic movement through advocacy for policies that protect and encourage organic food and agriculture. Our specific policy priorities may vary each year but always include upholding strict organic standards, protecting the rights of organic operations at the state and federal level, working on behalf of organic farmers in the Farm Bill and ensuring that those farmers have access to federal funding, advocating for organic on California and other state issues, and vigorously opposing threats to the organic sector from invasive pests, genetic engineering, labeling rights, or other attacks on organic. CCOF actively participates in National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC) meetings and works on important issues to ensure the integrity of organic.

### Promotion

CCOF maintains a comprehensive website where visitors can learn all about organic and how to become certified or involved in the organic movement. Each year CCOF exhibits at a number of industry trade shows where we promote our members' products to buyers, distribute our Organic Directory and talk to food producers wishing to become certified organic. We participate in community events to highlight and promote CCOF members to consumers.

CCOF also attends and networks at other organic and agricultural sector events on behalf of our members. CCOF trade association promotional programs are designed to keep our members informed of new opportunities and events as well as provide information to the greater organic community.

For more detailed information on CCOF's education, advocacy and promotional activities see CCOF At Work on page 14.

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## Join Our Organic Community

Become certified organic by CCOF, (see pages 10–11)

Sign up to be a CCOF supporting member, (see pages 224–225)

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at [www.ccof.org](http://www.ccof.org).

Find out about volunteering and internships at CCOF, email [ccof@ccof.org](mailto:ccof@ccof.org)

We look forward to welcoming you to our organization.

**For more information about CCOF visit [www.ccof.org](http://www.ccof.org)**