



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy



January 15, 2010

CCOF CLIENT CONTACT
CCOF Certified Farm
Address
City, State, Zip

Response Required: New Natural Resource Management Form

Dear XX;

Thank you for your participation in the CCOF organic certification program. CCOF has implemented a new section of the Organic System Plan relating to natural resource conservation. **Please complete the Natural Resource Management OSP section on the back of this page and return a copy to CCOF by April 1, 2010 (please keep a copy for your records).**

If you have questions about how to complete this form, please contact your Regional Service Representative XX.

CCOF is committed to upholding high standards in organic certification. The purpose of this new OSP section is to ensure positive conservation and resource management practices are being implemented on organic farms. We acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing efforts CCOF certified growers have made to practice good natural resource management. If you are already maintaining or improving the natural resources of your operation, changes to your management are not necessary. Your inspector will review the responses you provide on this form with you and discuss your site specific practices, challenges and opportunities.

The National Organic Program rule 205.200 and 205.203(a) requires you use production practices that maintain or improve the natural resources of your operation, including soil and water quality, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife.

We have enclosed a brochure from Wild Farm Alliance with valuable information about conservation strategies and farm management. Please review the principles outlined in the brochure and consider areas within or directly surrounding your farm where you are maintaining or improving natural resources. For more resources and a broader discussion about natural resource management issues, please visit www.ccof.org/biodiversity.php.

Thank you for your dedication to the integrity of organic agriculture. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to create a more sustainable agricultural system.

Sincerely,

CCOF Grower/Livestock Department

*"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it does otherwise."
- Aldo Leopold*



Operation Name: _____ Date: _____

You must implement production practices which maintain or improve the natural resources of your operation, including soil and water quality. "Natural resources" are defined as the physical, hydrological, and biological features of your operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife. This OSP section applies to all operations engaged in crop and animal production including greenhouses, poultry production, and other non-field organic production systems. Please attach additional pages as needed.

A. CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 1) How do you manage water for the needs of crops, livestock, native species and riparian ecosystems?
2) How are you improving and/or maintaining natural resources in non-crop, fallow, border and adjacent areas?
3) What actions do you take to prevent or control invasive plant/animal species, especially those threatening natural areas?
4) If you restrict wildlife from entering your production areas (for food safety requirements, crop protection, etc), or eliminate wildlife habitat elsewhere, what practices do you use to mitigate loss of wildlife habitat or degradation of natural resources?
5) Please describe additional measures taken to conserve natural resources:

B. CONSERVATION INVOLVING LIVESTOCK Not applicable, no livestock involved

- 1) How do you protect riparian areas and sensitive habitats?
2) How do you improve your pasture or rangeland?
3) What management practices do you use to ensure a healthy relationship between livestock and wildlife?