

Become Certified Organic CCOF



*When you produce healthful organic foods,
you make a commitment to your customers.
CCOF honors your commitment by offering
certification your customers can trust.*

Be Recognized for Your Commitment to Organic

The only way to be truly recognized for a commitment to producing and manufacturing organically is to become certified organic. Organic certification enhances the value of a product and makes it more marketable to the health- and environmentally-conscious consumer.



The presence of the USDA and/or CCOF seal on a product guarantees to the consumer that the food they are purchasing has been grown and produced to federally regulated, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards and that it has been inspected. Research shows that there is increasing consumer confidence in the USDA seal and that it represents someone working behind the scenes to ensure their food is safe and healthy.* CCOF is happy to be that someone. We are proud of the role we play in ensuring the integrity of organic in the eyes of the consumer, and we are pleased to provide these six simple steps to certification.

Six Simple Steps to Becoming “Certified Organic”

1. Complete and Submit the Application

Complete your Organic System Plan (OSP) and application. The CCOF certification application guides you through the required organic standards and helps you document your organic operation. Applications are available for download at www.ccof.org/downlogo.php, by emailing ccof@ccof.org, or calling (831) 423-2263. Get started now.

2. Review Stage 1

Your application will be reviewed by a CCOF certification specialist to assess whether you are ready to move forward towards organic certification. If so, you will be assigned to a Regional Service Representative (RSR) who will arrange for a trained inspector to come to your operation to perform an on-site inspection.

3. Inspection

The purpose of the inspection is to verify that what is detailed in your Organic System Plan and application is what is happening in practice. The inspector will submit an inspection report to CCOF.

4. Review Stage 2

CCOF certification specialists will review the inspection report alongside your initial application and OSP. Any issues of non-compliance or requests for further information will be addressed with you.

5. Certification Status Notification

Upon successful completion of the review process, you will receive a letter from CCOF to inform you of your certification status and any requirements for ongoing certification.



6. Annual Renewal Process

To remain certified in good standing, every operation must be re-inspected annually. Each year your certification will be renewed and annual certification fees are due. When CCOF grants an operation a status of Organic Certification, it issues a federal license that will be held by you, the client, until it is withdrawn, suspended or revoked.

* Natural Marketing Institute (NMI)

(831) 423-2263 • ccof@ccof.org • www.ccof.org

