



Get to Know CCOF

THE STAMP OF ORGANIC INTEGRITY

Your Partner in Organic

CCOF advances organic agriculture for a healthy world through organic certification, education, advocacy, and promotion. We advocate on behalf of our members for organic policies, support the work of our members through technical training and educational and hardship assistance grants, and provide organic certification that is personal and accessible.

CCOF is a nonprofit organization governed by the people who grow and make our food. Founded in California more than 40 years ago, today our roots span the breadth of North America and our presence is internationally recognized. We are supported by an organic family of farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers, consumers, and policymakers. Together, we work to realize a future where organic producers thrive and where organic *is* the norm.

Premier Certification Services

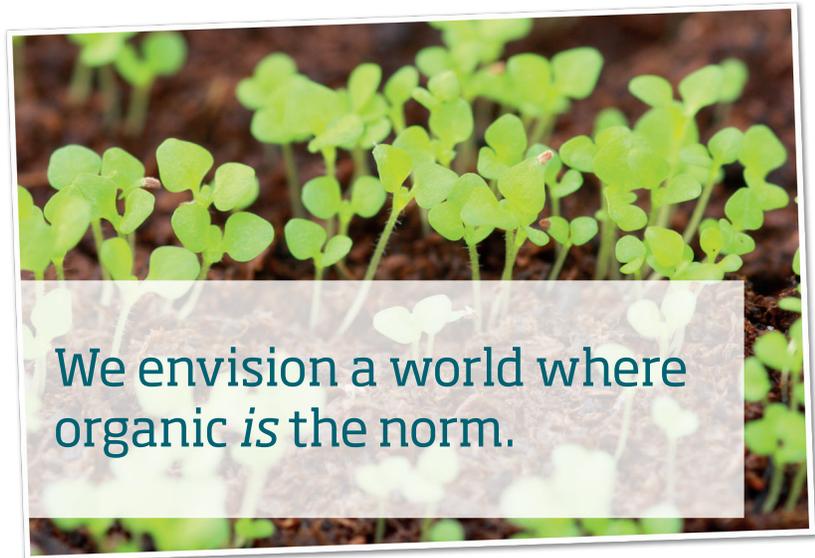
Each day, we support the success of organic producers by certifying more than 3,400 operations across North America who offer over 1,100 different crops, products, and services. From field to fork, we certify organic growers, livestock producers, ingredient suppliers, handlers, packaging companies, warehousing and storage facilities, brokers, wholesalers, private labelers, retailers, and restaurants.

CCOF Certification Services is accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program and is widely recognized for its expertise and highly trained staff. We are also accredited by the Canadian Organic Regime (COR) and provide field-level food safety services through GLOBALG.A.P.

CCOF upholds organic standards, provides superior customer service, and, above all, maintains its commitment to organic integrity. The CCOF seal is one of the most recognized and trusted seals in the organic market.

Member-Driven Policies and Priorities

CCOF is the only full-service organic certification agency that is governed by its members: those who pioneer organic food production. CCOF certified members belong to regional chapters, which elect representatives to the CCOF Board of Directors, organize local events, and provide networking and resource-sharing opportunities at regular meetings. The



We envision a world where organic *is* the norm.

membership helps shape CCOF's priorities and direction, uniquely positioning us to advance organic agriculture through the insight they provide.

Organic Education and Resources

Our educational events and resources keep our members and the organic community up-to-date on market and trade developments, trends, hot topics, and best practices. The CCOF Foundation's Organic Training Institute produces webinars, events, field days, and workshops every year that assist organic producers in marketing their products and meeting organic standards. We also organize and participate in events designed to increase public awareness of, and demand for, certified organic products.

The CCOF Foundation's Future Organic Farmer Grant Fund makes organic education possible for the next generation of farmers through providing grants for K-8 teachers incorporating organic into their classroom curricula, high school students completing organic Supervised Agricultural Experience projects through the National FFA Organization, and students in higher and vocational education programs pursuing studies to launch their organic careers.

The CCOF website, www.ccof.org, provides information on organic production and benefits, steps to become certified organic, a dynamic blog, policy and advocacy initiatives, classifieds, and upcoming events. Our quarterly magazine, *Certified Organic*, features inspiring stories about our members and important organic certification and industry news.

Get to Know CCOF

Organic Advocacy

CCOF advocates for strong organic standards and champions the success of the organic sector. As a grassroots organization with over 3,400 certified organic members, CCOF has a strong voice in local, state, national, and international policy. For example, CCOF submits comments to federal agencies regarding the risks of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), works with federal officials to ensure legitimate food safety standards for the organic industry, and campaigns for more resources to be dedicated to organic research and development. In all its advocacy endeavors, CCOF is proud to be a leading voice regarding the many social, economic, and environmental benefits of organic food and agriculture.

Promotion

We are dedicated to promoting our members and the success of organic producers. Through member distribution and attendance at trade shows and major agricultural events, we disseminate thousands of copies of *Certified Organic* magazine sharing updates in member, organizational, and sector news.

At www.ccof.org/directory we maintain a valuable online directory of our certified members for those looking to source certified organic products.

CCOF represents not only our certified organic members, but also hundreds of supporting members—individuals and businesses that share our commitment to protecting and expanding the organic marketplace—whose financial support and donations help us achieve our mission.

The CCOF Foundation

The CCOF Foundation is changing the way the world eats by supporting organic farmers and businesses and helping people understand organic and why it is the best choice. We are transforming the face of U.S. agriculture by investing in a new generation of farmers and agricultural professionals through the Future Organic Farmer Grant Fund. We are also shifting the way shoppers make their purchasing choices by educating consumers on what organic is and how to look for it in the marketplace. The Foundation also supports organic farmers by providing no- or low-cost training resources through our Organic Training Institute and through hardship assistance grants distributed annually. Want to help cultivate change? Tax-deductible donations can be made to the CCOF Foundation on our website at www.ccof.org/foundation.

Help Organic Grow!

Join our organic community! Get certified organic, become a Foundation Member or Business Partner, or donate to help us continue our education and advocacy efforts. Learn more by visiting www.ccof.org.

CCOF supports the organic community with more than 40 years of organic certification, education, advocacy, and promotion experience.

OUR ORGANIC PRINCIPLES

Organic standards promote and enhance biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil fertility while restoring, maintaining, and enhancing ecological harmony. The legacy of organic will be in catalyzing healthy, sustainable, and humane production systems.

CCOF believes that organic standards should continually evolve to address a broadening range of issues, including:

» Animal Welfare

CCOF believes that organic livestock standards should require humane and ethical treatment of animals during all stages of production, including transport and slaughter.

» Carbon Sequestration

CCOF believes that organic practices offer verifiable opportunities for sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gases, and should be encouraged as an effective strategy for reducing dangerous levels of emissions.

» Ecosystem Protection

CCOF believes that organic standards should encourage stewardship of land and waterways, as well as protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

» Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

CCOF believes that genetic modification is fundamentally incompatible with organic production. The organic market and its producers must be protected from GMO contamination. GMO products must be labeled as such.

» Processing Standards

CCOF believes that organic standards should require processors to minimize environmental impacts by conserving water and energy; preventing contamination of water, air, and soil; and promoting the reduction, reuse, and recycling of packaging.

» Social Justice

CCOF believes that the organic market should provide adequate and equitable compensation and treatment to farmers, ranchers, laborers, and other participants in organic production and processing. All individuals should be treated with dignity and respect.