

Initiative Name and Acronym: National Organic Initiative (NOI)

Initiative Description/Summary: Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) NOI, NRCS will assist eligible producers with installation of conservation practices on agricultural operations related to organic production. NRCS has determined that this definition includes certified organic producers and producers who are transitioning to become certified organic. Eligible applicants also include producers who fall under the exemption category in the National Organic Program (NOP) regulation.

Producers will self-certify their eligibility for participation in the National Organic Initiative by identifying their operation as certified organic, transitioning to become certified organic, or exempt from certified organic using NRCS-CPA-1200 under item 4(d). If selected for participation, the producer is required meet the standards of each classification, and failure to do so may result in termination of the contract.

Program Contact Information and State Web Site:

Questions and Contact NHQ: Please refer all programmatic questions referring to the NOI to the FAPD SharePoint for questions. The FAPD SharePoint can be found here:

https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/nrcs_programs/fapd/SitePages/Home.aspx

Web Site: The National Headquarters National Organic Initiative Web site is located at

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip?cid=nrcs143_008224

Business Tools:

CART Ranking Guidance: States will use CART ranking template National Instruction 440-310 for guidance on land use, state eligibility, and ranking of the National Organic Initiative. Exhibits Q and R within this Instruction provide clarity for establishing ranking and eligibility.