



# Certifying Your Farm

Written and designed by staff at Quality Certification Services (QCS) and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). This product was developed with support from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program.

# Ice Breaker

*2 Truths and 1 Lie*

# Pre-Test

# What is Organic?

## *A Production System...*

managed to respond to site-specific conditions  
integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices  
to foster cycling of resources  
promote ecological balance  
and conserve biodiversity



USDA definition





# History of Organic Certification

## 1980's

- Farmers, retailers, and consumers want uniformity
- Multi-ingredient products

## 1990

- Organic Foods Production Act [OFPA]

## 2002

- NOP Regulations "Go Live"



*As of the end of 2012...*

**17,750** U.S. organic farms & processing facilities were certified.

**\$31.5 billion** U.S. organic industry!

**\$63.8 billion** Worldwide sales





**42%** of parents report their trust in the **ORGANIC SEAL** has increased.

**81%** of U.S. families are **BUYING ORGANIC.**



### MORE PARENTS ARE BUYING ORGANIC...

**48%** say "it's **HEALTHIER** for me and my children"

**30%** to avoid **TOXIC PESTICIDES** and fertilizers

**29%** to avoid **ANTIBIOTICS** and growth hormones

**22%** to avoid **GMO's**



# Marketing Your Products...



## *Retail*

- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Farmer's Markets
- U-Pick

## *Non-retail*

- Grocery Markets
- Brokers/Distributors
- Restaurants

## **§205.103**

# **Record keeping**

Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the certified operation in sufficient detail to be readily understood and audited.

e.g. purchase invoices, field activity records, input application, spray records, planting records, harvest, and sales records.

# §205.201

## Organic System Plan

Description of:

- Management practices and procedures
- Record keeping system
- List of inputs in use

QCS Application = OSP

## **§205.202**

# **Land requirements**

- Managed organically per regulations.
- Have had no prohibited substances applied to it for a period of 3 years.
- Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones to prevent unintended application of prohibited substances.



# §205.205 Crop Rotation



"A planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption in the same field"

Must implement a crop rotation plan!

Field Rotation Plan 2012		
Field	Crop	Season
1	Grain	Spring
	Winter	Winter
2	Legume and Grain	Spring
	Winter	Winter
3	Grain and Soybean	Spring
	Winter	Winter
4	Grain and Soybean	Spring
	Winter	Winter

Sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that...

- maintain or improve soil organic matter
- pest management
- manage nutrients
- provide erosion control

Perennial cropping systems employ alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows... in lieu of crop rotation



## Must implement a crop rotation plan!

Field Rotation Plan 2013		
Field	Crop	Season
1	Rye Aisles	Winter
	Potatoes	Spring
	Sudex/Soybeans	Summer
	Garlic	Fall
2		Winter
		Spring
	Late Squash and Beans	Summer
	Wheat/Crimson Clover	Fall
3		Winter
	Cabbage and Kale	Spring
	Buckwheat	Summer
	Cabbage and Kale	Fall
4	Rye and Clover	Winter
		Spring
	Peppers/Eggplant	Summer
	Oats/Winter Peas	Fall

Sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that...

- maintain or improve soil organic matter
- pest management
- manage nutrients
- provide erosion control

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# \$205.204 Seeds and Planting stock

## What must be organic?



- Organic seeds to produce edible sprouts.
- Annual seedlings- unless a temporary variance is granted.

### When can Non-organic be used?

- Untreated Non-GMO seeds and planting stock may be used when an equivalent variety is not commercially available.
- Non-organic perennial planting stock must be managed organically for 1 year before it can be represented, labeled, and sold as organic.

## *When can Non-organic be used?*

- Untreated Non-GMO seeds and planting stock may be used when an equivalent variety is not commercially available.
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Activity 1



## **\$205.203 Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management**

### ***Soil and Crop Fertility Management***

- Biological:  
Cover crops, compost, animal products
- Mechanical:  
Ground rock: lime, phosphate, greensand,  
etc.
- Cultural:  
Rotations, legumes, contour plowing, etc.

# Cowpeas



# Soil and Crop Fertility Management

## *Compost and manure use*

- Natural resources
- Conservation practice
- Water quality and sources

### Animal Manure Usage

- Soil contact: 120 days before harvest

- No direct soil contact: 90 days before harvest

# Animal Manure Usage

## Composting

A managed process...

that combines plant and animal materials with an initial C:N ratio between 25:1 and 40:1

- Stack pile between 10°F and 170°F for 3 days

- Windows: 120°F and 170°F for 15 days, turned at least 5 times

Keep records and take temperature

- Soil contact: 120 days before harvest
- No direct soil contact: 90 days before harvest



# Composting

## A managed process...

that combines **plant and animal materials** with an initial C:N ratio between 25:1 and 40:1

- Static pile: between 131F and 170F for 3 days
- Windrow: 131F and 170F for 15 days, turned at least 5 times

**Keep records and take temperatures!!**

# Crop Management

**\$205.206 Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease**

**How do you confront challenges?**

- Weed Management
- Pest Management
- Disease Management

**Evaluation of all areas**

# Weed Management

**What are the problem weeds on your farm?**

- Cultivation
- Mulching
- Plastic mulch must be removed at season's end
- Natural materials decompose to improve soil
- Flame weeding
- Rotations and crop timing





# Pest Management

## **Systems approach**

- Rotations, cover crops, diversity, attracting beneficials

## **Limited use of OMRI and WSDA approved products**

- Bt for cabbage worms
- Insecticidal Soap for aphids

## **Hand picking and trap cropping**

Monitoring (scouting) is most important!

# Disease Management

- Disease resistant varieties
- Clean equipment and greenhouses
- Rotations to break disease cycles
- Water management
  - Good drainage and air flow
- Proper fertility management

# Maintaining Organic Integrity



- Adjoining Land Use
- Adequate buffers
- Split operations
- Prevent commingling
- Storage of crops including pest control
- Transportation and marketing
- Documented cleaning vs. dedicated organic

# Which of these are allowed?





ORGANIC NITROGEN

**Milorganite®**

FERTILIZER

FOR ORGANIC GARDENING

# Colorado Potato Beetle Beater Concentrate

TRUSTED SINCE 1926  
**BONIDE**

Kills Colorado Potato Beetle  
Controls certain insects in vegetable gardens

ACTIVE INGREDIENT

spinosad (a mixture of spinosad A and spinosad D)	0.2%
OTHER INGREDIENTS	99.8%
TOTAL	100.0%

EPA Reg. No. 14871-204 Reg. No. 8273-01-4



Keep Out Of Reach Of Children  
**CAUTION** See back panel for details  
Net Contents 16 FL. OZ (473 ML)

FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION

TEAR CORNER

## Biological Insecticide

# Dipel® DF

## Dry Flowable

### Active Ingredient:

*Bacillus thuringiensis*, subsp. *kurstaki*,

strain ABTS-351, fermentation solids, spores, and insecticidal toxins . . . 54%

Other Ingredients . . . . . 46%

Total . . . . . 100%

Potency: 32,000 Cabbage Looper Units (CLU) per mg (14.5 billion CLU per pound)

The percent active ingredient does not indicate product performance and potency measurements are not federally standardized.



For Organic Production

### KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN CAUTION

#### FIRST AID

If on skin or clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take off contaminated clothing</li> <li>• Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes</li> <li>• Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice</li> </ul>
If inhaled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move person to fresh air</li> <li>• If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably by mouth-to-mouth, if possible</li> <li>• Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice</li> </ul>
If in eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes</li> <li>• Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye</li> <li>• Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice</li> </ul>

#### HOTLINE NUMBER

Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment. You may also contact 1-800-832-0099 (24 hours) for emergency medical treatment and/or transport emergency information. For all other information, call 1-800-6-VALENT (682-5368).

#### PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

#### CAUTION

Harmful if inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Causes moderate eye irritation. Avoid breathing dust or spray mist. Avoid contact with skin, eyes, or clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling. Remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse.

Mixer/loaders and applicators must wear a dust/mist filtering respirator meeting NIOSH standards of at least N-95, R-95, or P-95. Repeated exposure to high concentrations of microbial proteins can cause allergic sensitization.

**VALENT** BIOSCIENCES CORPORATION

870 TECHNOLOGY WAY SUITE 100  
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 62088 USA

EPA Reg. No. 73045-38

EPA Est. No. 33762-1A-001

List No. 12946-84-01

©2008

NET CONTENTS: 1 POUND (454 GRAMS)

23-0388/76

# DiPel ES

Spinosad Emulsion | Insecticide

#### Directions

Read the entire label before using. Do not apply to  
crops, ornamentals, lawns, and residential areas.  
Use only on crops.

10/13  
10/13

Apply 1.5-2.0 fl. oz. per acre per day if possible or  
0.5-0.75 fl. oz. per acre per day per gallon of product.

Do not apply after irrigation has not started or  
if irrigation will be started immediately. Do not harvest  
crops.

**KEEP OUT OF REACH  
OF CHILDREN  
CAUTION**

This product is toxic when applied to animals.  
Preventive measures should be taken for use, and storage  
and disposal.

#### PRECAUTIONS

Do not apply to crops, ornamentals, lawns, and residential areas.  
Use only on crops.

Apply 1.5-2.0 fl. oz. per acre per day if possible or  
0.5-0.75 fl. oz. per acre per day per gallon of product.  
Do not apply after irrigation has not started or  
if irrigation will be started immediately. Do not harvest  
crops.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

This product is toxic to fish and aquatic life. Do not apply to  
water bodies or areas of standing water. Do not apply to  
crops, ornamentals, lawns, and residential areas.

#### USE RESTRICTIONS

Do not apply to crops, ornamentals, lawns, and residential areas.

**VALENT** BioSCiENCES  
CORPORATION  
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Cupertino, CA 95014

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reproduce or distribute without  
written permission.

Lot No. 101-20130



Net Contents: 2.12 Gallons (8.06 Liters)





16-0-0

# allganic<sup>®</sup> Nitrogen

Reduced Nitrogen of Seeds

**16-0-0**

OMRI  
Certified



allganic  
Nitrogen

16-0-0

OMRI



16-0-0  
NO LBS NET

[www.allganic.com](http://www.allganic.com)



ALL NATURAL ORGANIC SOIL BUILDER

ALL NATURAL ORGANIC SOIL BUILDER

ORGANIC BRANDS

# MUSHROOMING COMPOST



Produced by  
BLACK GOLD  
COMPOST CO.  
P.O. Box 100  
Okeechobee, Florida 34901-0100



NET CONTENTS:  
40 lbs 18.1 Kg



NET WEIGHT 40 LBS (18.1 Kg)

# What Fertility or Pest Control Input Can I Use?

§205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production



§205.602 Nonsynthetic substances prohibited for use in organic crop production

No new installations of treated lumber

Sewage sludge is prohibited!

Always contact your certifier to approve inputs!





**Always contact  
your certifier to  
approve inputs!**

# Activity 2

# Processing & Handling

## 100% Organic

- All ingredients and processing aids must be certified organic.



## Organic

- All agricultural ingredients must be certified organic.
- Non-organic ingredients allowed per National List up to a combined total of 5% of non-organic content (excluding salt & water).

## Made with Organic

- At least 70 percent of the product must be certified organic ingredients (excluding salt & water).

## **§205.236 Origin of Livestock**

Must be managed organically from last third period of gestation for meat production

Poultry must be managed from 2nd day of life.



**§205.237 All feed must be grown on certified organic land or purchased certified organic.**

- Conventional dairy herd can be transitioned into organic after being managed for 1 year on certified organic pasture.

*(Additions to herds must be from on-farm breeding or buying certified animals.)*

- Ruminants 30% of DMI must come from rooted pasture, 70% from certified hay, silage, or grain. Pasture grazing must be at least 120 days per year minimum *(dependent on geographical location.)*

## **\$205.238 Livestock Health Care**

***Preventative health care practices such as***

- Breed suitability and disease/parasite resistance
- Nutrition, sanitation, appropriate housing
- Vaccines are allowed
- Antibiotics are prohibited
- Restrictions on use of parasiticides in dairy animals.
- Not allowed for meat or poultry

## **§205.239 Living conditions**

Year round living conditions that support health and the natural behaviors of animals...

Year round access for all animals to

- Shade and shelter
- Outdoors
- Exercise area
- Direct sunlight
- Clean water
- Fresh air

Note animals may be temporarily denied access to the outdoors but reasons must be documented.  
Suitable to stage of life and environment.

## **§205.240 Pasture Practice**

Pasture = crop

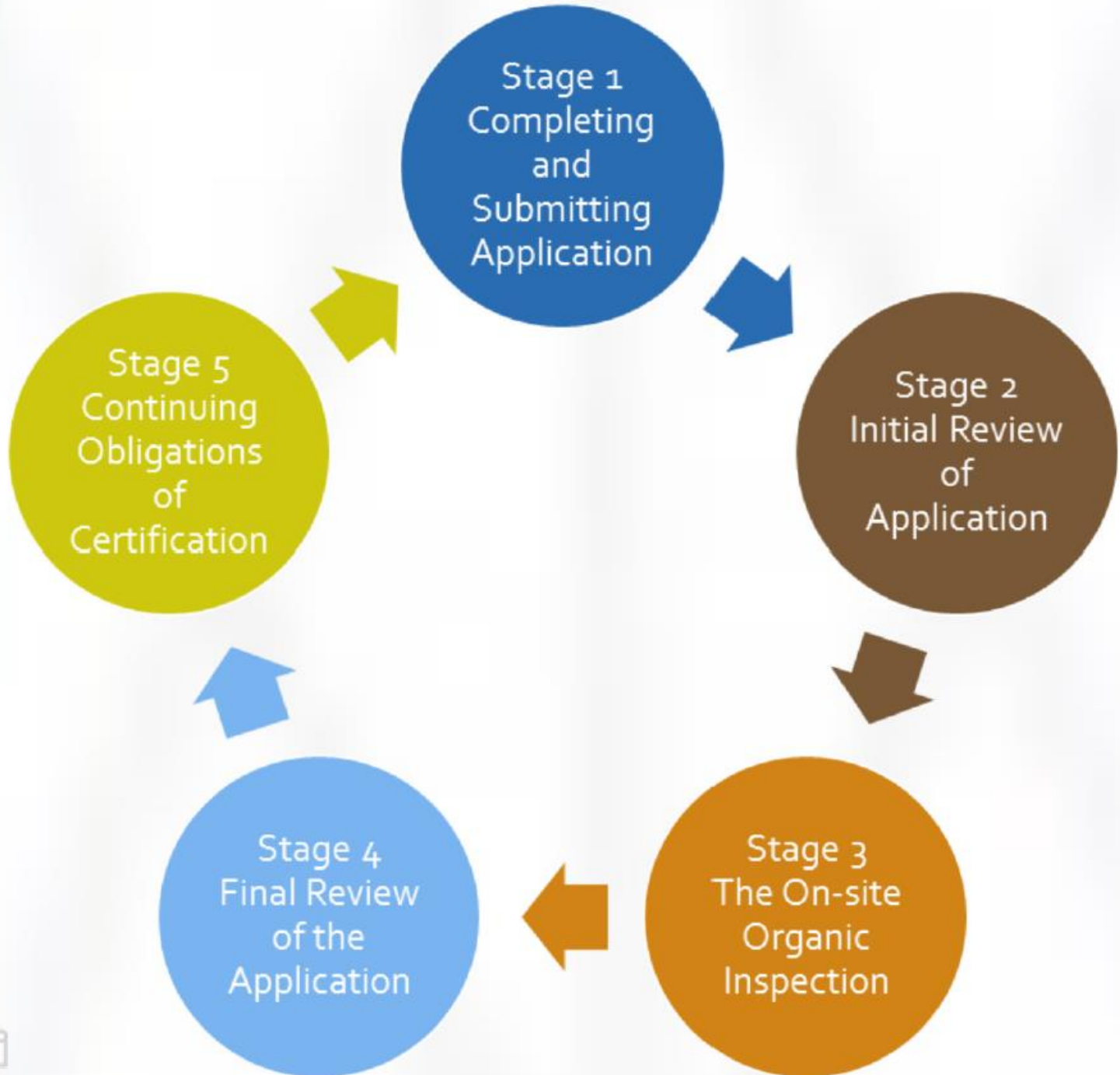
Minimize disease and parasites

Stocking density, size of pastures, type  
(annual or perennial)

e.g. mob grazing and MIG grazing









A man wearing a blue polo shirt, a camouflage baseball cap, and sunglasses stands in a field of tall green plants. He is looking towards the camera with his hands clasped. A white speech bubble with a green border is positioned above him, containing the text "What's the Cost?".

**What's the Cost?**





Convert 75% of Certificates into \$750

# Cost Share



**Covers 75% of Certification Costs  
up to \$750!**

# Post-Test