



National Organic Program (NOP) Update for the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB): Part 2

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National Organic Program
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1,667 Certified Organic Businesses in Wisconsin!



USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service



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Welcome to the Organic INTEGRITY Database!

Find a specific certified organic farm or business, or search for an operation with specific characteristics. Listings come from USDA and Trade Partner-Accredited Certifying Agents. Only certified operations can sell, label or represent products as organic, unless exempt or excluded from certification.

Reset Search Filters

Advanced Search

Export to Excel

Program	Operation	Certifier	Info	Status	City	State/Province	Country	Certified Products
	<input type="text"/>	Select Certifier <input type="button" value="v"/>		Certified <input type="button" value="v"/>	Enter City <input type="text"/>	WI-Wi... <input type="button" value="x"/> <input type="button" value="v"/>	Enter Country <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="text"/>
USDA-NOP	4 K&S Dairy	[MOSA] Midwest Organic Services Association, Inc.		Certified	Dodgeville	Wisconsin	United States of America	CROPS: Other: Alf... <input type="button" value="up"/>
USDA-NOP	A & L Soy	[MOSA] Midwest Organic Services Association, Inc.		Certified	Dalton	Wisconsin	United States of America	CROPS: Field/For... <input type="button" value="up"/>
USDA-NOP	A.G. Cropping Services, LLC	[NICS] Nature's International Certification Services		Certified	Hartford	Wisconsin	United States of America	CROPS: Other: Co... <input type="button" value="up"/>
USDA-NOP	A.P. Whaley LLC	[MOSA] Midwest Organic Services Association, Inc.		Certified	Mount Horeb	Wisconsin	United States of America	HANDLING: Other... <input type="button" value="up"/>

National Organic Program Spring 2024 Update for NOSB Now Available in the Learning Center

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
National Organic Program (NOP)



Update for National Organic Standards Board
Spring 2024 Meeting
Presented by Team NOP - April 2024



Topics

- Strengthening Organic Enforcement Update
- Call for NOSB Nominations
- TOPP & Transitional Production Plan
- An Award!

Strengthening Organic Enforcement Final Rule: We Did It – Thank You Organic Community!



Increase the number of certified entities to fill gaps



Strengthen recordkeeping and supply chain traceability



Require use of electronic import certificates



Strengthen oversight of accredited certifiers





**Operation Level
Certificate:**

Assesses Business Status:
Are You Certified Organic?

Operation Registry

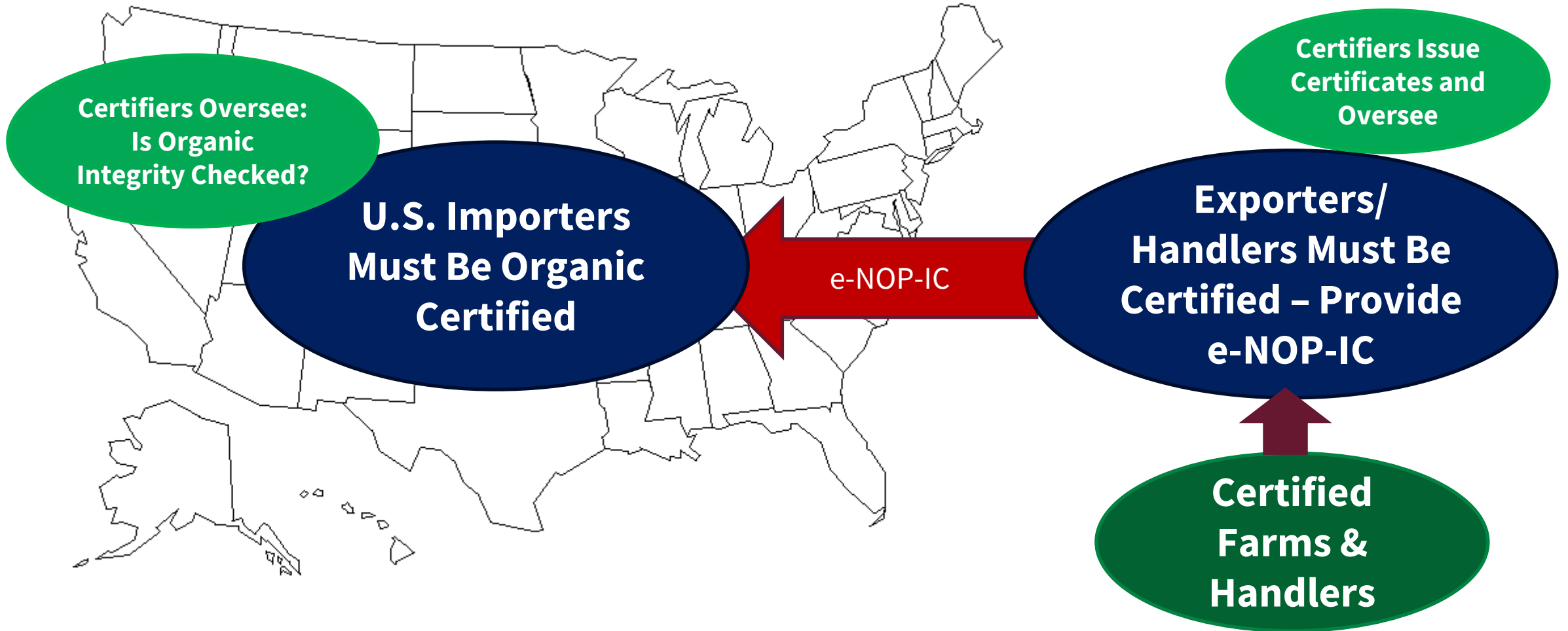
**Electronic Import
Certificate (e-NOP-IC):**

Has A Certifier Authorized this
Export to the U.S. as Organic?

Import Protection

ORGANIC
INTEGRITY DATABASE





Quick Snapshot... NOP Focus

- Continued outreach to trade
- Rapid responses based on import data
- Certifier SOE implementation info request – Due May 17
- Fielding new policy questions and feedback
 - Impact on small farms
 - High-volume retail distribution centers
 - Logistics warehouses
 - Importers and brokers

Key Insights: Importers



700 NOP Letters
to Uncertified
Importers
(3/19 - 4/24)

989 U.S. Handling
Operations Certified
Between 1/1 and 4/25
3.5x Increase Year-Year

Still Many Uncertified
Importers ... But
Making Good Progress

640 of 989 Certified in
March/April 2024
(135 Same Period
in 2023)

1,815 New Handling
Operations Worldwide
since 1/ 1.

Timing: How Long
Does Operation-Level
Certification Take?

2-6 Months
(Depending on
Complexity/Backlog)

Key Insights: e-NOP-IC (Import Certificates)



NOP Is Refining Our Metrics Tracking – Early Data

21,464 Total
e-NOP-IC's
issued from OID
(3/19-4/22)
11,859 are Active

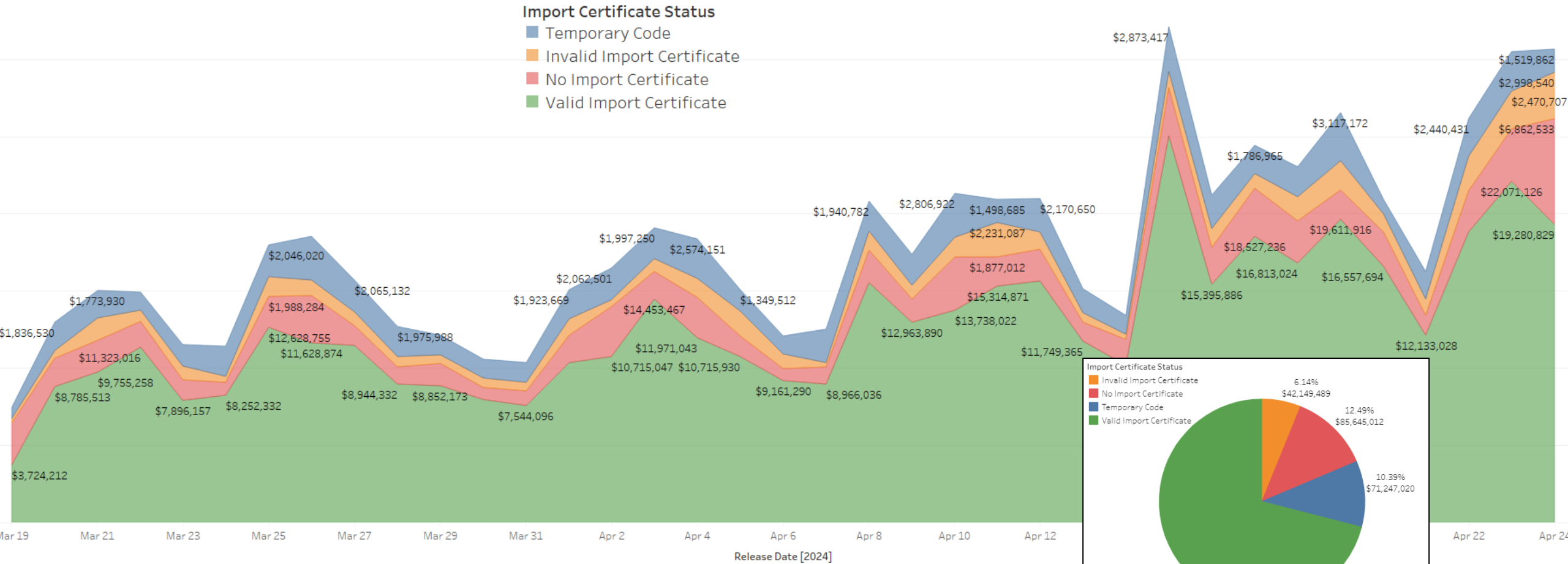
5,322
Import Certificates
in CBP-ACE
(As of 4/24)

>70% of e-NOP-IC's
Appear Valid to Date

63% e-NOP-IC's Issued
by USDA Certifiers;
Rest under EU, Canada,
Japan

Current ACE Data Reflects
Mainly Land-Based Imports
Feedback from Customs Brokers:
More Rapid eNOP-IC's Needed
Feedback from NOP:
Only Issue Valid eNOP-IC's

Tracking Over Time: 3/19 - 4/24



- **Certifier Learning Curve:**
 - Certifiers (USDA and Trade Partners) still learning e-NOP-IC System.
 - Not Always Accurately Marking if Importer is Certified – May Lead to Warning Letters to Valid Businesses
 - Certifiers making the transition from legacy paper certs to electronic
- **Regulatory Discretion Differs for Different Entities:**
 - All Producers, Processors, Most Handlers Must be Certified NOW.
 - Exporting Handler Must Be Certified to Get e-NOP-IC, which are Mandatory.
 - Entities on e-NOP-IC May Differ from CBP Filing Documents. Certifiers are adapting framework to diverse supply chains. Variability expected.
 - More Regulatory Discretion Possible with U.S. Importers not Physically Handling Goods: Still Need to Get a Valid e-NOP-IC!

- **Integrating New Business Types and Structures:**
 - High Volume, High Throughput: Need evolving certification models
 - Requires new approaches and client collaboration
- **Navigating Private Label Arrangements**
 - Note: Rule does not require retail label changes
- **Balancing Traceability with Protecting Confidential Information**
 - Certificate and Addendum Management
- **Defining Risk-Based Certification Approaches:**
 - Oversight needs differ across different business types and sizes
 - Sound/Sensible Approaches: Do not over-burden small farms

Benefits of Certification Across Supply Chains



- **Organic certification is effective risk management**
- Being in the system protects you when there are problems –
Due process protection, certifier support
- Uncertified operations still need to comply and provide records
– having a certifier helps that process
- Well-run organizations have processes in place already
- Certification also helps with supplier management
- Certification is just not that hard!
- **Protecting the organic market takes the full market!**

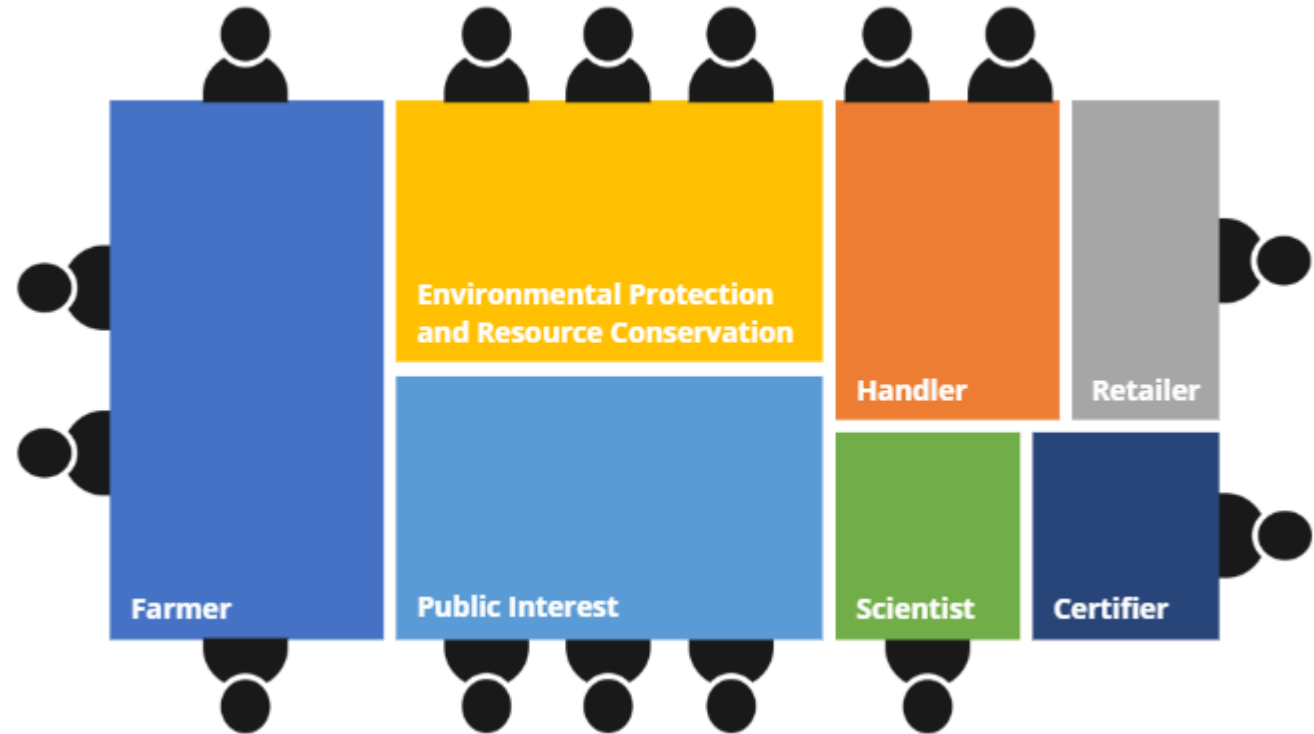
- Respond to Questions and Scenarios from Certifiers and Trade: Emphasize Sound/Sensible Approaches
- Rapidly Follow-Up with Importers (Certified and Uncertified) on Invalid/Absent/Transition Codes: Progressive Enforcement
- Educate Certifiers on Common Data Quality Problems
- Review Certifier Organic Control System Updates
- Enforcement Actions with Noncompliant Certifiers (Risk-Based)
- Monitor & Adjust Import Certificate Flags
- Work with Trade Partner Organic Programs to Assess Systems
- Take Enforcement Action Where Needed

Topics

- Strengthening Organic Enforcement Update
- Call for NOSB Nominations
- TOPP & Transitional Production Plan
- An Award!

Call for Nominations for NOSB

- One organic **farming** representative
- Two organic **handling** representatives
- One **retail** representative
- One individual with expertise in areas of **environmental protection and resource conservation**



Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)



More than **20,000** people interested in transitioning to organic reached at over **400** events!





TOPP Mentorship is Growing!



275

**Mentor
Applications
Received**

375

**Mentee
Applications
Received**

130

**Mentorship
Matches Made!**



Getting Started: Transitional Producer Plan

Transitional Production Plan – Crops

This production plan is for crops producers transitioning to organic as part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). These transitional producers have an organic system in place, are implementing practices that are expected to lead to compliance with the USDA organic regulations (organic rules), and are not using prohibited substances.

A completed Transitional Production Plan, signed by a USDA accredited certification body (certifier), can be used as organic system plan documentation in consideration for transitional crop insurance ([Organic Crops | RMA \(usda.gov\)](#)) and may meet part of the application requirements for Conservation Activity Plan 138 under the Natural Resource Conservation Services' Environmental Quality Incentives Program's Organic Initiative ([CAP 138](#)).



www.ams.usda.gov/nop



www.organictransition.org



Peer Award from Team NOP: Employee of the Quarter!



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Questions from the Board?

**Organic Integrity
From Farm to Table
Consumers Trust the
Organic Label**



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