



# Nevada's Organic Certification Program

Factsheet 2014-02

**T**he Nevada Department of Agriculture's Organic Certification Program is an accredited certifying agent of the USDA's National Organic Program. We provide certification services for crops and handlers / processors.

NDA has been serving the state's organic community since 1997 when the Nevada legislature passed the Certification of Organic Agricultural Products law. In 2002 NDA was accredited by USDA's National Organic Program to certify crops and processed products to the national standards. Today we provide organic certification services for farms, ranches and businesses throughout the state.

## What We Do

The Nevada Department of Agriculture's Organic Certification Program provides assurance to consumers who purchase Nevada Certified Organic products by verifying that products were grown and handled according to USDA National Organic Program standards. The program benefits Nevada's agricultural producers and handlers by providing an in-state organic certification service which allows eligible operations to market agricultural products as "certified organic" domestically and internationally.

## What is Organic?

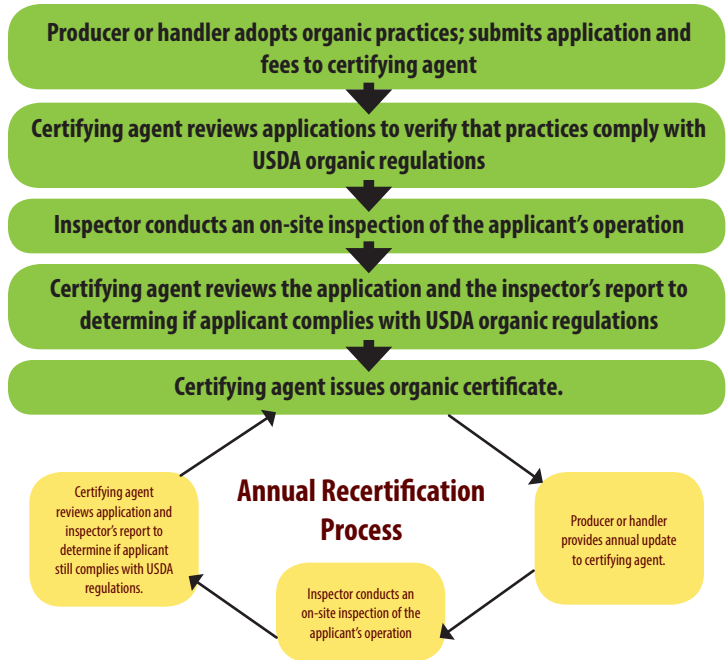
Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. The principal guidelines for organic production are to use materials and practices that enhance the ecological balance of natural systems and that integrate the parts of the farming system into an ecological whole.

## Application Process

To become certified as an organic producer or handler, an application must be made to a USDA-accredited certification agent, such as NDA. All certification agents require the applicant to submit an Organic System Plan, a written plan which contains relevant information concerning all aspects of operations on the farm or in the processing facility.

## Certification Process

The organic certification process includes five steps:



## Certify with NDA

The NDA Organic Certification applications for Producers and/or Handlers are available on the NDA Organic Program website. We encourage you to call and talk to program staff prior to submitting an application to clarify requirements. Application fees are not refundable. On average, applicants receive their organic certificates within three months of applying.

## Information

► [agri.nv.gov/Plant/Organic\\_Certification/Organic\\_Certification\\_Home/](http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Organic_Certification/Organic_Certification_Home/)

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