The National Organic Initiative, funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance for organic farmers and ranchers, or those interested in transitioning to organic. NRCS can help organic producers improve their operations or help producers transition to organic using a conservation plan tailored to their needs.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to producers who are certified organic or exempt from organic certification. Key areas of conservation assistance that also help meet USDA National Organic Program requirements include:

**Soil Health**
- Erosion control
- Organic matter
- Nutrient management
- Crop rotations

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**Biodiversity**
- Hedgerows & buffers
- Habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and beneficial insects

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**Livestock Practices**
- Pasture & grazing management
- Diverse pasture plantings
- Fencing, walkways
- Watering facilities

NRCS provides free assistance to all agricultural producers. Turn over to learn more.
TYPES OF ASSISTANCE
NRCS provides free technical assistance to all agricultural producers. For all programs, producers must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements and, in some states, sodasaver provisions; additional requirements are unique to each program. Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM ORGANIC INITIATIVE
EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land. To qualify for the Organic Initiatives, producers must be certified organic, transitional, or exempt from certification. Payments are made to eligible participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan are implemented. Contracts can be up to $20,000 annually, and/or up to $80,000 over a six-year contract.

GET STARTED
Producers should visit their local USDA Service Center at http://offices.usda.gov to meet with an NRCS conservationist, or contact their state office to ask for their State organic point of contact at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states.

Contact Us
To learn more about opportunities for technical and financial assistance, producers should contact their local NRCS service center, at http://offices.usda.gov
To learn more about organics, visit the USDA organic website www.usda.gov/organic, or the NRCS organic website www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic
www.nrcs.usda.gov
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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
    Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
    1400 Independence Avenue, SW
    Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.