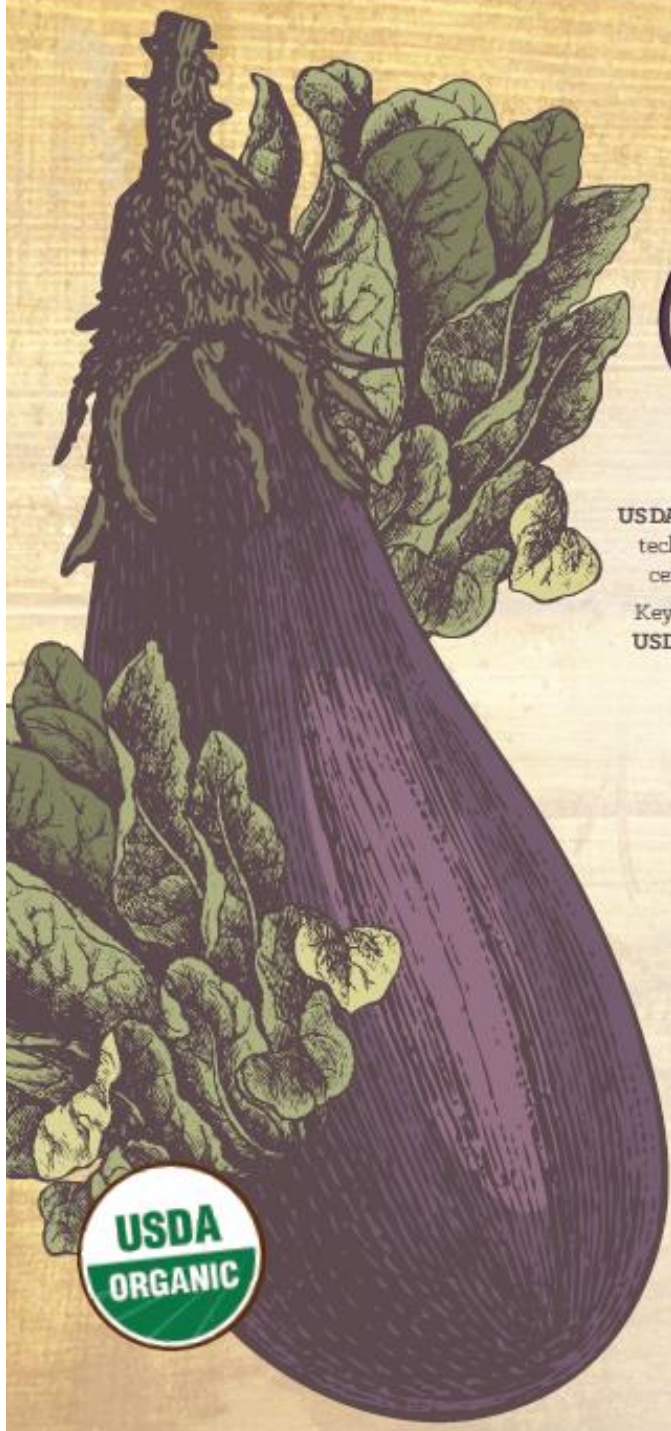


**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
January 11, 2018
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



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.

For more information, please visit NRCS' organic website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic.



ASSISTANCE FOR
★
CERTIFIED
ORGANIC
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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

biodiversity
HEDGEROWS & BUFFERS
HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE, POLLINATORS
AND BENEFICIAL INSECTS

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, sodsaver provisions; additional requirements are unique to each program. Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmland.

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, audiotope, 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.