



Resources for Organic Operations

USDA's Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, & Risk Management Agency



While organic producers are eligible for all USDA programs, this resource page is designed to highlight a select few programs that may be beneficial for organic operations. Call your local service center for more information on any of our programs or visit www.farmers.gov.

What's available within the USDA?

FSA Programs

- ◆ Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)
- ◆ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- ◆ Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- ◆ Low Interest Loan Programs

NRCS Programs

- ◆ Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic Initiative (EQIP)
- ◆ Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program
- ◆ Conservation Stewardship Program
- ◆ Conservation Technical Assistance

RMA Programs

- ◆ Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)

Support for Organic Farmers and Ranchers

Are you an organic—or transitioning to organic—farmer or rancher? The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) offer programs that can help you, with some especially targeted for organic operations.

The USDA can share the costs of your organic certification, provide support for conservation practices, provide financial assistance for producers experiencing crop losses from weather related events/natural disasters, as well as provide low interest loans for storage and handling equipment.

Check out [FSA's organic resources homepage](#).

Check out [NRCS's organic resources homepage](#).

Farm Service Agency

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

FSA provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). FSA pays up to 50% of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$500 per certification scope. [For information on OCCSP click here.](#)

Interested in Establishing Conservation Buffer Zones?

FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides financial assistance to farmers interested in establishing conservation practices. CRP offers both whole field practices like conservation cover (trees, shrubs, and grasses) and partial field practices like filter strips, buffers, and windbreaks for protecting organic crops from chemical drift. Funds are also available for establishing habitat for pollination species that can be planted in blocks or strips. [For information on CRP click here.](#)

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

FSA's NAP Program provides financial assistance to farmers whom experience crop losses due to weather related events. Additional NAP enhancements are available:

- ◆ Buy-up for additional coverage
- ◆ Direct Market pricing
- ◆ Organic pricing option

[For information on NAP click here.](#)

Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

FSA's FSFL provides low interest financing to build or upgrade storage and handling facilities for organic commodities including cold storage, bulk tanks, drying, handling, and mobile equipment, as well as storage and handling vehicles (i.e. refrigerated trucks and forklifts).

Many types of facilities and equipment are eligible. Contact your local office for additional information or [click here.](#)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS can help organic producers develop a conservation plan that meets their goals and can often help with financial assistance to implement elements of the plan.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Organic Initiative -

EQIP offers conservation practices for agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation and wildlife habitat. Several targeted initiatives include the Organic Initiative, High Tunnel Initiative, Soil Health Initiative, and more. The Organic Initiative can assist with practices needed for organic certification such as buffers and wind breaks. It can also assist with practices needed for certified organic operations such as pollinator habitat or high tunnels. Financial assistance is available for the development of Conservation Activity Plans (CAP). CAPs are developed for producers with specific natural resource needs or land uses such as:

- ◆ Transitioning to organic (CAP 138)
- ◆ Forest land
- ◆ Grazing land
- ◆ Nutrient management

All Conservation Activity Plans are developed by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to help agricultural producers address specific natural resource concerns on their land.

With the Organic CAP 138, the Resource Inventory (section one), when submitted with the Resource Inventory Supplement, contains the required components of an Organic System Plan. Current National Organic Program regulations do not require the use of a specific OSP. The use of the Resource Inventory and the Resource Inventory Supplement document for this purpose is optional, but producers should check with their organic certifier to discuss details.

[For more information on EQIP click here.](#)

Farm Loan Programs

FSA's loan programs provide supervised credit to family farmers to start, purchase or expand their farming operation. A few of the options available are:

- ◆ Operating Loans
- ◆ Ownership Loans
- ◆ Microloans
- ◆ Youth Loans
- ◆ Emergency Loans
- ◆ Direct Loan
- ◆ Guaranteed Loans
- ◆ Conservation Loans

[For general information on our loans click here.](#)



Agriculture Management Assistance (AMA)

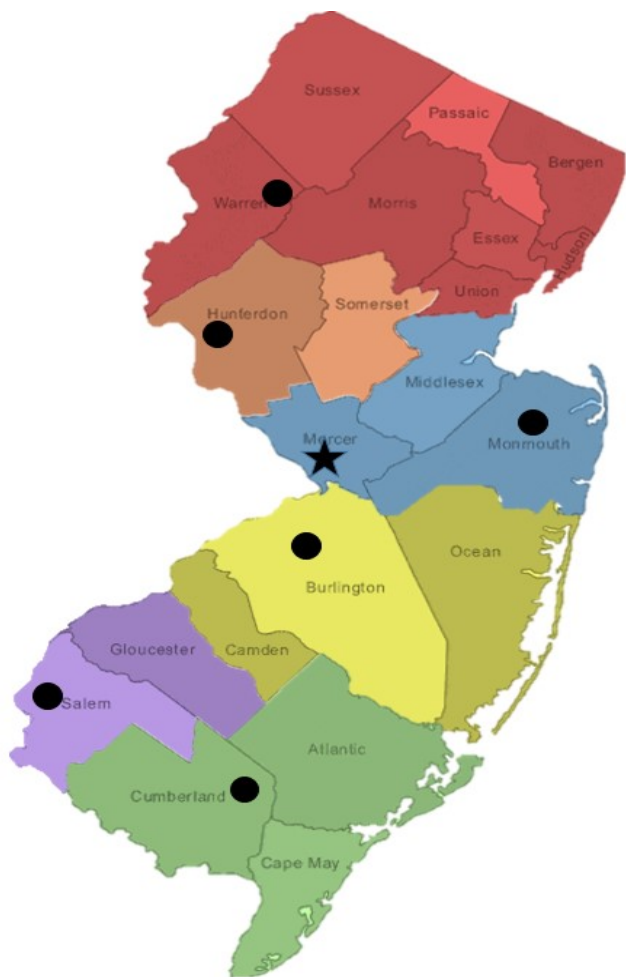
The AMA program offers conservation payments to targeted beginning and limited resource farmers, small farms, and producers who have limited participation in other USDA financial assistance programs. Drip irrigation, high tunnels, pollinator habitats, wind breaks, filter strips and buffers are among some of the few possible practices offered with AMA. [For more information on AMA click here.](#)

Risk Management Agency

Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)

RMA's WFRP provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets.

[For more information on WFRP click here.](#)



Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP helps farmers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment. [For more information on CSP click here.](#)

Contact one of the New Jersey USDA Service Centers for more information:

Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Passaic, Warren, Sussex, & Morris Counties

101 Bilby Rd, Suite 1H
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Phone: (908) 852 - 2576

Union, Hunterdon, & Somerset Counties

687 Pittstown Rd
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
Phone: (908) 782 - 4614

Monmouth, Mercer, & Middlesex Counties

PO Box 5033 4000 Kozloski Rd
Freehold, NJ 07728
Phone: (732) 462 - 0075

Burlington, Camden, & Ocean Counties

1971 Jacksonville Jobstown Rd
Columbus, NJ 08022
Phone: (609) 267-1639

Cumberland, Cape May, & Atlantic Counties

1318 S Main Rd, Building 5A
Vineland, NJ 08360
Phone: (856) 205 -1225

Salem & Gloucester Counties

51 Cheney Rd
Woodstown, NJ 08098
Phone: (856) 769 -1126