Arizona Transition to Organic Partnership Program Organic Certification in Arizona

To become a certified organic operation, interested applicants need to complete five basic steps:

Operation adopts organic practices and selects an accredited certifier

Certifier reviews compliance with USDA organic regulations

Inspector conducts site visit of operation

Certifier final review of the application and inspection report for USDA organic compliance

Certifier issues an organic certificate

Each certifier has different application requirements -- you can find additional information on their websites.

How long does the certification process take?

To transition to organic, operations must demonstrate that no prohibited substances have been applied in the last three years. The certification process typically takes around six months to complete and operations are required to complete this process annually to maintain their status. For more information, check out the <u>USDA Becoming a Certified Operation website</u>.

How much does certification cost?

Certification fees vary based on the certifier and the size, type, and complexity of the operations. To support transitioning and existing organic farmers with certification costs, the USDA offers the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), which covers up to 75% or \$750 of costs per scope. You can find more information on the <u>Arizona Department of Agriculture website</u>. Applications typically open late summer and close in November.







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