



SOUTHEAST

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

SE TOPP Farmer-to-Farmer Mentorship Program Mentee Spotlight

Pamela Bronn
Live Oak
Farmstead
Loris, South Carolina

Total Acres Certified: 7

What type of certified organic products does this operation produce? **Pasture, orchard fruits, high tunnel crops and vegetables**



How do you expect organic certification to impact your operation this year? Overall tracking/documenting of information, whether it be harvest and sales records or pest problems, is something I needed to improve. The regulations force you to build a database of knowledge which, over time, is invaluable.

What advice would you give to farmers looking to transition to organic certification? Good question and one I was asked by a fellow farmer just the other day. I think the mindset of wanting to grow organically will have prepared you for the process, meaning you should already be researching what inputs, etc. are allowed. Read the USDA's NOP and review the different Certifier's OSP, which will set you up for success. There is so much information on the internet. 3 years goes by fast. Gather information as you go.

Why did you choose to become certified organic? Why not! I was already taking the right steps, being a good steward of the land and making a conscious effort to grow clean. As I started selling produce at the Farmer's Markets, I realized I wanted our efforts to be acknowledged, and certification does that. In addition to telling my customers I was growing good clean food, I could also show them, with the certification.