United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Organic Management (823 - Interim Practice)

**Pacific Islands Area**

***Implementation Requirements*** ***March 2023***

Practice Lifespan: 1 year

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Client / Business Name: | | | | Date: | |
| Planner's Name: | | Tract No.: | | Field Office: | - |
| Field Number(s): | | Field Acres: | | Planned Amount: | |

**Practice Definition:**

Managing and improving natural resources on land in and adjacent to organic production using methods which integrate cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.

**Practice Purpose:**

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes (check all that apply):

- ☐ Improve soil health
- ☐ Improve soil erosion
- ☐ Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHS)
- ☐ Reduce transport of pesticides and nutrients transported to surface water, groundwater and air
- ☐ Improve moisture management
- ☐ Improve plant productivity and health
- ☐ Reduce plant pest pressure
- ☐ Enhance habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and other beneficial invertebrates
- ☐ Improve livestock feed and forage imbalance
- ☐ Improve or maintain quantity and/or quality of forage for grazing, browsing and productivity

**Producer's Goals and Objectives:**

The following map(s) are attached to this organic management plan:

- ☐ All fields or locations planned for Organic Management
- ☐ Location of designated sensitive areas and associated setbacks, buffer zones and diversions
- ☐ Soil survey map and inherent soil properties of each map unit for all managed areas

If you have questions about this planned practice contact:

| Name: | | Tel: | | Email: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**NRCS Review Only**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Designed By:** | | **Date:** | |
| **Checked By:** | | **Date:** | |
| **Approved By:** | | **Date:** | |

**Implementation Requirements** (check whether currently being met or is still needed)**:**

Met/Need

- ☐ ☐ The Organic Management plan adheres to the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) Standards.
- ☐ ☐ The producer(s) is coordinating all organic management activities/inputs with a NOP approved Organic Certifier(s).

  Organic certifier name: _____
- ☐ ☐ Prior to certification of the 823 practice, contact between NRCS and the NOP Certifier is required for verification the organic plan is being properly implemented.
- ☐ ☐ Organic production areas are protected from unintended introduction of prohibited substances through defined boundaries, buffer zones or diversions.
- ☐ ☐ All inputs and other materials follow the National List of allowed and prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients.
- ☐ ☐ Nutrient applications are being managed to follow NRCS CPS Nutrient Management (Code 590) and any State level nutrient management requirements.
  ☐ Nutrient Management Plan is attached (or is in the NRCS client folder and customer has original copy)
- ☐ ☐ The use of concentrated organic nitrogen (N) sources such as poultry litter, manure slurry, feather meal, and blood meal is managed to provide not more than 50% of total crop N requirement. The balance of N is provided through legume N fixation, slow-release sources and SOM mineralization. When high soil phosphorus (P) limits the use of manure and compost, the use of legumes for N is increased.
- ☐ ☐ Only certified organic seed is used for all crops including cover crops (unless organic seed is not commercially available, then untreated, non-genetically modified organism (GMO), conventionally produced seed is used).
- ☐ ☐ Pests are managed through an integrated strategy of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) and following NRCS CPS Pest Management Conservation System (Code 595). NOP-allowed pest control materials are utilized only when other tactics have not provided needed control.
  ☐ Pest Management Plan is attached (or is in the NRCS client folder and customer has original copy)
- ☐ ☐ Crop residues are only burned to suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination.
- ☐ ☐ Ash obtained from the burning of a plant or animal material are applied only when the material burned has not been treated or combined with a prohibited substance or the ash is not included on the National List of Prohibited Substances for Use in Organic Crop Production.
- ☐ ☐ Establish and maintain perennial habitat plantings on at least 5% of the total acreage of the organic operation.
- ☐ ☐ Provide nectar, pollen, and habitat for natural enemies of crop pests by planting and maintaining diversified mixes of flowering plants meeting the criteria of NRCS CPS Conservation Cover (Code 327) or other appropriate NRCS CPS.
- ☐ ☐ The operation follows all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

**If livestock are a part of the operation:** ☐ N/A

**Met / Need**

- ☐ ☐ Livestock and manure are managed to prevent contamination of crops, soil, and water resources by nutrients and pathogens. Concentrated livestock areas, trailing, and trampling are minimized to reduce soil compaction, excess runoff and erosion.
- ☐ ☐ Stocking rates and grazing periods are managed to adjust the intensity, frequency, timing, duration, and distribution of grazing and/or browsing to meet the planned objectives for the plant communities, and the associated resources, including the grazing and/or browsing animals.
- ☐ ☐ A Pasture Condition Score (PCS) of 4 or higher is being maintained. ☐ PCS analysis is attached
- ☐ ☐ A pasture / grazing management plan meeting the criteria of NRCS CPS Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) is being followed. ☐ Grazing plan is attached (or is in the NRCS client folder and customer has original copy)

Met / Need

☐ ☐ Pastures are managed to provide ruminant livestock with at least 30% of dry matter intake during the grazing season.

☐ ☐ When livestock obtain their diet by grazing pastures as well as from mechanically harvested and processed feeds, pasture forages are tested for nutrient content and accounted for in the feed ration and balance of nutrients. All feeds, including grazed pasture are included in an analysis to meet the livestock's nutrient requirements and avoid excess nutrients being fed. Forage tests meet the LGU acceptance and certification process.

☐ ☐ Supplemental feed and/or minerals are provided as needed to balance with forage consumptions to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of grazing and/or browsing livestock.

☐ ☐ Dietary needs of livestock are based on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Nutrient Requirements of Animals series or similar scientific sources.

☐ ☐ Livestock feeding, handling, and watering facilities are designed and installed to minimize stress, the spread of disease, parasites, and contact with harmful organisms, and toxic plants.

**If crops in rotation are a part of the operation:** ☐ N/A

Met / Need

☐ ☐ Crops in rotation include at least three crops representing three different plant families or three of the four main crop types (warm season grass, warm season broadleaf, cool season grass, and cool season broadleaf) with at least one cover crop per rotation cycle.

☐ ☐ Cropland management results in a soil erosion rate of Tolerable (T) rates or less, minimized soil compaction, a positive Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) of 0.1 or higher (or equivalent positive trend shown by a soil health assessment). ☐ Soil erosion analysis is attached ☐ SCI analysis is attached

☐ ☐ Enhancements to SOM quality and quantity, habitat for beneficial soil organisms, and soil aggregate stability are applied:

- Follow a crop rotation and use cover crops to maintain year-round soil coverage, biomass production, living roots, and plant diversity.
- Limit fallow periods in the rotation to less than 25 percent of the available growing season (e.g., when temperatures or soil moisture are not adequate to sustain plant growth).
- Minimize soil disturbances by tillage, livestock, concentrated nutrients, and crop protection materials.

☐ ☐ The number and intensity of tillage and cultivation operations and timing and sequence of crops and field operations are managed to minimize physical disruption to soil structure and soil life. A Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) of 80 or less is achieved. ☐ STIR analysis is attached

☐ ☐ At least one cover crop meeting the criteria of NRCS CPS Cover Crop (Code 340) is included in the rotation every two years. Cover crops are grown long enough to achieve canopy closure and at least 1 ton (dry) above ground biomass per acre. Cover crops are terminated with no or minimal tillage whenever practical, by roller- crimping, mowing, winterkill, or strip tillage.

☐ ☐ In rotations dominated by vegetables or other low-residue production crops, sufficient higher- residue production crops (e.g., specialty grains), high-biomass cover crops, and perennial sod crops are integrated to meet the above criteria for soil erosion and soil health. ☐ N/A

☐ ☐ Floors and alleys in orchards, vineyards, berries, and other perennial horticultural crops are maintained in year-round living plant cover; or in dormant vegetation, residues, or organic mulch during the dry season in rainfall-limited regions. ☐ N/A

**Additional Organic Management Requirements Information:**

| |
|---|
| |

**Associated Conservation Practices:**

The following associated conservation practices are needed and will be implemented (list all that apply).

**Implementation Requirements (IR) and specifications for these practices are attached:**

| |
|---|
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

**Operation and Maintenance:**

- For transitioning operations, the plan will extend, and be adjusted as needed, through the time to meet the required period of prohibited substance application, typically three years but can be less with proper documentation.
- Review or revise plans periodically to determine if adjustments or modifications are needed. Implement the plan continuously throughout the duration of this practice.
- Monitor, evaluate, and document outcomes in relation to conservation purposes on a regular schedule.
- Monitor fields receiving animal manures and biosolids for the accumulation of heavy metals and P in accordance with LGU guidance and State law. Other contaminants that are rapidly emerging as a concern in the application of biosolids are per- and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). The Environmental Protection Agency has created a roadmap of strategic action to address the environmental and health implications posed by PFAS, which will provide guidance to a currently evolving situation.
- Annually inspect and repair structural and vegetative components of this practice.

**Specific Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements for Your Practice:**

| |
|---|
| |

# Organic Management (823 - Interim Practice)

**Pacific Islands Area**

***Implementation Requirements*** **March 2023**

## Design Approval

| Practice (code) | Lead Discipline | Controlling Factor | Units | Job class | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | I | II | III | IV | V |
| Organic Management 823 | Agronomy | Complexity | Enterprise Types | Annual Crops | Perennial Crops | Livestock | 2 Enterprises | 3 Enterprises |
| ESJAA Job Class required for this design: | | | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Certified By: /s/ _____ ESJAA Job Class:_____ Date:_____

## Client Acknowledges that:

a. They have received a copy of the practice standard & implementation requirements and understand the contents.
b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
c. The completed job shall be workmanlike and present a good appearance. The contractor or participant shall conduct all work in accordance with proper safety procedures.
d. After the practice has been completed, a site inspection will be made to determine whether the practice was properly applied and adequate control has been achieved. A practice certification form will be completed by the planner.

Accepted By: /s/ _____ Date: _____

## Certification

| Treatment Unit/Field | Amount Treated | Treatment Units | Inspection Date | Inspector | Certified? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Map(s) – including field numbers, fields treated, and acres treated

☐ Photo documentation

☐ Other:

Brief Description/Notes:

I have reviewed the information provided by the client and certify this practice was applied according to practice standards, specifications & implementation requirements above.

Certified By: /s/ _____ ESJAA Job Class:_____ Date:_____