

STATEMENT OF WORK
Transition to Organic System Plan (138)
Missouri

These deliverables apply to this individual planning activity. For other planned activities refer to those specific Statements of Work. See Section III, FOTG, Resource Quality Criteria for Programs - EQIP for further guidance on this planning activity.

DESIGN

NOTE: A Transition to Organic System Plan should address all land units on which organic activity, enhancements, or practice installation will be planned or applied.

Deliverables:

Transition to Organic System Plan - General Element Criteria

1. Meet NRCS quality criteria for soil erosion, water quality, and other identified natural resource concerns;
2. Address elements of a Organic System Plan (OSP) as defined in the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Standards (www.ams.usda.gov/nop);
3. Comply with Federal, State, tribal, and local laws, regulations and permit requirements;
4. Document the producer's objectives and decisions for practice implementation during the transition period.
5. Consider the following applicable items during the conservation plan development process in support of the OSP:
 - a. Background and Site Information;
 - b. Identification of natural resource concerns to be addressed;
 - c. Producers objectives and goals related to organic production;
 - d. Site history and transition period (NOP Part 205.202);
 - e. Seeds and Planting Stock (NOP Part 205.204);
 - f. Type of seed used: organic, non-organic, untreated, treated or inoculated; If non-organic, untreated seed used must document "good faith effort" seed search for organic seed;
 - g. Annual seedlings: organic with certificate;
 - h. Other planting stock: organic, non-organic: rhizomes, shoots, tubers, cuttings, or roots;
 - i. Non-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) documentation (only needed for crops that have commercially available GM seed);
 - j. Seed treatment: pelletized, coated, primed, fungicide, insecticide, inoculated.
 - k. Production of Seedlings, Transplants, Greenhouse Crops (NOP Part 205.204)
 - l. Soil mix used to grow crops;
 - m. Method used to separate and identify organic and non-organic areas;
 - n. Method used to prevent commingling of organic and non-organic plants;
 - o. Labeling;
 - p. Prevention of prohibited materials drift/contact through ventilation or irrigation system;
 - q. Prevention of prohibited materials contact into sensitive areas, through streams, surface water, or irrigation system;
 - r. Method of cleaning seedling containers, equipment used for both organic and prohibited substances;
 - s. Method of cleaning and insuring materials stay on site (not airborne or waterborne);
 - t. Fertility, Soil Quality and Erosion Control (NOP Part 205.203 and 205.205);
 - u. Crop rotation plan;
 - v. List of cover crops, hedgerows, and/or artificial structures for beneficial insects, pollinators, bats, and raptors or other diversified plantings in annual and perennial crops;
 - w. Consideration of wildlife-friendly cover crops;
 - x. List of nutrients applied (incorporated, foliar, soil inoculants, compost);
 - y. Results of soil tests, tissue tests, microbiological tests, crop quality testing;
 - z. Cover crop management;
 - aa. Side dressing, drip applications;
 - bb. Method and frequency of fertility management monitoring;
 - cc. Methods of erosion control and documentation;
 - dd. Soil map units used for erosion prediction and predicted soil erosion from wind and/or water as a result of using approved prediction tools such as RUSLE2 and/or WEQ when applicable;

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- ee. Production of Compost (NOP Part 205.203)
 - i. Method of producing compost;
 - ii. Compost that contains manure;
 - iii. Addition of pelleted manure to compost;
 - iv. Non-composted manure application.
- ff. Crop rotation (NOP Part 205.205)
 - i. Practices to maintain or improve soil organic matter content;
 - ii. Practices to manage deficient or excess land nutrients;
 - iii. Provide for pest management with annual and perennial crops;
 - iv. Practices to address erosion control.
- gg. Pest Management (NOP Part 205.206)
 - i. Substances used for controlling insects or disease;
 - ii. Biological controls including encouraging and managing bats and raptors);
 - iii. Pest control materials and reason for use;
 - iv. Synthetic pesticides used in or around facilities where organic products are stored;
 - v. Beneficial predators and parasites;
 - vi. Pollinator habitat and pollinator protection;
- hh. Location of sensitive resource areas that include:
 - i. Rivers, streams, drains, surface waters, wetlands, wells, groundwater, drains, grassed waterways and buffers;
 - ii. Sensitive plant species and/or essential fish and wildlife including invertebrates) habitat (on and off-site), and food plots;
 - iii. Drinking water sources.
- ii. Prevention of Contamination by Contact (NOP Part 205.201)
 - i. Adjoining land use;
 - ii. Width and type of riparian and other vegetative buffers;
 - iii. Separation of organic, non-organic at harvest;
 - iv. Safeguard methods of prevent contamination from drift;
 - v. Use of lumber treated with prohibited substances;
 - vi. Application equipment, type, and cleaning method documented that is used for both organic and non-organic crops;
 - vii. Water source;
 - viii. Storage of any prohibited materials on the farm;
 - ix. Methods of crop storage.
- jj. Livestock (NOP Part 205.236 to 205.239)
 - i. Livestock, poultry, breeds, gender, numbers, hatch or purchase dates;
 - ii. Livestock products, processing;
 - iii. Crops grown for organic livestock feed;
 - iv. Origin of Livestock—Type, flock ID, date of purchase, whether certified organic, age at purchase, source, projected date of egg-laying, slaughter methods;
 - v. Livestock feed—access to pasture for all ruminants;
 - vi. Drinking water source;
 - vii. Operations producing both organic and non-organic livestock;
 - viii. Separation between organic and non-organic livestock.
- kk. Biodiversity—conservation plants, habitat for birds, pollinators, bats, beneficial insects, natural areas restored or protected, wildlife friendly farm practices.

Transition to Organic System Plan - Specific Element Criteria

1. Each of the Transition to Organic System Plan elements will address specific criteria.
 - a. Background and site information element: this element provides a brief description of:
 - i. Name of owner/operator;
 - ii. Farm location and mailing address;
 - iii. Soil map units;
 - iv. Map of streams, surface waters, wetlands on or adjacent to site;
 - v. Conservation plan map;

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- vi. Total acres to be transitioned to organic;
 - vii. Field names or codes;
 - viii. Date producer began management of parcel;
 - ix. Date producer plans to harvest certified organic crops from the parcel;
 - x. List of crops grown on the parcel, with acreage for each crop.
 - b. Assessment of the natural resource concerns to be addressed. The plan shall identify those natural resource concerns which will need to be addressed by the producer in order to meet requirements of the NOP.
 - i. Air quality
 - ii. Domestic Animals
 - iii. Fish and Wildlife
 - iv. Plant Condition
 - v. Soil Condition
 - vi. Soil Erosion
 - vii. Water Quality
 - viii. Water Quantity
 - c. Producer's objectives and goals related to organic production.
 - d. Planned NRCS practice standards.
2. Develop a transition to organic system plan with a schedule of operations that will meet NRCS policy and technical requirements of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide including meeting Resource Quality Criteria in Section III, and planning procedures contained in the National Planning Procedures Handbook.
 - a. An Environmental Evaluation (MOCPA 52) to demonstrate compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, and other designated environmental concerns and environmental laws. The environmental effects from the activity plans on environmental resource concerns should be clearly documented on the MOCPA-52 form.
 - b. Soils map and appropriate soil descriptions.
 - c. Plan map showing locations of fields, natural and other human installed features, and all planned conservation practices.
 - d. Cover page with signature blocks for the TSP, producer, and a signature block for NRCS acceptance.

INSTALLATION

Deliverables:

1. Pre-application conference with client.
2. Provide one (1) copy of the transition to organic system plan and supporting documents to the client.
3. Review planned treatments step by step and year by year with client
4. Verification that client has obtained required permits and certifications.
5. Application guidance as needed.
6. Advise client/NRCS on compliance issues with all federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations and NRCS policies.
7. **TSP personnel:** Deliver one (1) electronic copy on a computer compact disc (CD) or by email to the local NRCS Field Office by the assigned/agreed-to date. The write-up shall be free of error and typed in a readable font. The electronic version will be compatible with Microsoft Office Word/Excel/Access 2003. Any maps used in the electronic copy will be in a digital format. A Completed MOCPA-52 and appropriate worksheets will also be included.
8. **USDA personnel:** Develop and record the organic transition management plan in "Toolkit", including digitized land units, field boundaries and practice schedules.

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CHECK OUT

Deliverables:

1. Records of application:
 - a. Total planning acres transitioned to organic;
 - b. Location of planning acres;
 - c. List of organic crops;
 - d. Date plan completed.
2. Certification that the transition to organic system plan meets NRCS standards and specifications.
3. Progress reporting.

FOLLOWUP

Deliverables:

1. Make firm dates with the client for follow-up evaluation assistance.
2. Review, on-site, the results of the applied practices.
3. Assist client to adjust current management to meet the needs of the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.
4. Assist in improving the schedule of application.
5. Assist in recognizing any maintenance needs.

REFERENCES

- USDA National Organic Program (NOP—www.ams.usda.gov/nop).
- California Certified Organic Farmers (<http://www.ccof.org>).
- USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>).
- ATTRA Organic Documentation Forms, Organic Crop and Livestock Workbooks (<http://www.attra.org>).
- National Planning Procedures Handbook

STATE CONTACT

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