

# BEGINNING ORGANIC FARMING

Certification  
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February 1, 2006

## CERTIFICATION

- To make known or establish.
- To guarantee the quality or worth of.
- The process of organic certification is similar to other types of certification.

## The Process

- Determine what you intend to do.
  - Organic crop production.
  - Organic livestock production.
  - Organic handling or processing.

## The Process

- Determine how you intend to do it.
  - Transition existing non-organic production.
  - Acquire land or livestock certifiable for organic production.
  - Shift land from another program which may qualify for organic production.

## The Process

- Determine when to begin transition to organic production.
  - Do you have land that currently meets the requirements for organic production?
  - If not, the NOP requires a minimum 3 year transition to organic production.
    - Minimum 36 months w/o the application of a prohibited substance.

## The Process

- How do I begin the process?
  - Choose an Accredited Certifying Agent.
  - Complete an Application
    - Organic System Plan
    - Record Keeping System

## The Process

- Organic System Plan:
  - Description of practices and procedures.
  - List all substances to be used.
  - Establish monitoring and management practices.

## The Process

- Record Keeping System:
  - Consistent, accurate & up to date.
    - What you did.
    - How you did it.
    - When you did it.

## The Process

- Choose Certifier
- Submit Application
- Host On-Site Inspection
- Submit Any Additional Information
- Receive Certification

## Length of Time

- Certification
  - 90-120 days
- Land Transition
  - Minimum 3 years.

## Length of Time

- Livestock Transition
  - Breeder Stock: never
  - Off Spring: last third of gestation
  - Slaughter Stock: last third of gestation
  - Dairy: one year
  - Poultry: second day of life

## COST SHARING???

- Don't count on it!
- Indiana has about \$1k left.
- Not guaranteed for '07 Farm Bill.

## Questions?

- Voluntary Program
- All Certifiers Certify to NOP Standard
- The National List

## Where To Get Help

- ORGANIC FARMERS
- [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop)
- Accredited Certifying Agents
- Universities
- Consultants
- Marketing Coops