

## OKLAHOMA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ACT FACT SHEET

### **Who must be certified as an organic producer?**

Any production or handling operation or specified portion of a production or handling operation that produces or handles crops, livestock, livestock products, or other agricultural products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as 100% organic, Organic, or made with organic must be certified by an certifying agent. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is an certified agent that can certify in accordance with the provisions of the National Organic Program, and Oklahoma Organic Products Act. However, organically produced food can be marketed as "organic" without meeting some of the certification requirements of the act provided, the total gross organic agricultural income is less than \$5,000.00, but certain recordkeeping items has to be provided if requested, and an signed affidavit should be on file with the Oklahoma Dept. of Agricultural, Food, & Forestry.

### **What are the basic requirements for initial certification of a farm, farm unit, and commercial processor?**

The basic requirements for initial certification are:

- (1) Completion of a producer/processor application form available form the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry that includes an Organic production or handling system plan.
- (2) Descriptions of practices and procedures to be preformed and maintained.
- (3) A list of each substance to be used as a production or handling input, indicating its composition, source, and location(s) where it will be used.
- (4) A description of the monitoring practices and procedures to verify if the plan is effectively implemented.
- (5) A description of recordkeeping system implemented to comply with requirements.
- (6) A description of practices or procedures to prevent commingling of organic products and non-organic products.
- (7) Organic production practices verified by an on-site inspection, and exit interview of the Organic production or handling operation.

### **How is certification obtained?**

The Board may issue a certificate upon request after all of the certification requirements have been met. A properly completed producer/processor application (i.e. the producer application form, or processor form) must be submitted with proper fee.

### **How is continuance of certification achieved?**

Certification renewal is accomplished by submitting a current organic production or processor plan; a summary statement supported by documentation, detailing any deviations from, changes to modifications. The appropriate fee should be paid when production or handling information is sent to the Oklahoma Organic Food Section. Previously certified production sites and irrigation sources are considered valid with the submission of the producer application form provided the production sites and irrigation sources have been continuously licensed since initial certification. An annual continuance of certification inspection of certified sites during the crops' growing season is required.

### **Where to find the NOP Regulations and Rules?**

Oklahoma Department of Agricultural, Food, & Forestry or [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop)

For more information on the Oklahoma Organic Products Act, Please contact: Bryan Buchwald, Food Safety/Poultry, Egg & Organic, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, PO Box 528804 Oklahoma City, OK 73152-8804 Telephone: (405) 522-5924.