










MSU Organic Farmer Training Program **Certification Options**

Organic Certifiers				
Certifiers	Region & Certifications offered	Logo	Cost* <small>*USDA Cost-share lowers cost by 75% up to \$750</small>	Website
Organic	Annual application to 3 rd party certifier with Organic Systems Plan, annual inspection		\$400-\$1800, 75% refund by USDA cost share	https://www.usda.gov/topics/organic
Organic - Split operation	Certify part of farm; farm other parts conventional or w/o certification	For certified items only	\$400-\$1800, 75% refund by USDA cost share	https://www.usda.gov/topics/organic
Organic Exempt	Follow organic standards; Sales under \$5,000; Can say "organic", but can't use USDA organic logo	NA	\$0	https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/need-be-certified
OEFFA – Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association	IA, MO, IL, IN, OH, PA, KY, WV, VA Organic Food Justice Certification		\$1,450 MI if apply by March 15 (less in OH, etc.)	https://certification.oeffa.org/
MOSA – Midwest Organic Services Assoc.	Midwest Organic		\$1375 1 st yr; sliding scale from \$1250+ (based on gross organic sales \$)	https://mosaorganic.org/certification
OCIA – Organic Crop Improvement Assoc.	All US & International Organic Smithsonian Bird Friendly Shade-Grown Coffee		\$535 + fees for farm acres + sales – complex! See Fee Schedule for details	https://ocia.org/get-certified-2/
OnMark Certification Services	All US - Mostly upper Midwest Organic		\$1,100+ see fee schedule for details	https://www.onmarkcertification.com/certification
GOA – Global Organic Alliance	All US & International Organic		\$405+	https://www.goa-online.org/
CCOF – California Certified Organic Farmers	All US & International Organic GlobalGAP Primus Cannabis, Grass-Fed ROC (Regenerative Organic Certified)		\$1,150+ sliding scale	https://www.ccof.org/ https://www.ccof.org/webform/apply-certification-get-your-custom-packet
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Oregon Tilth	All US, Mexico <hr/> Organic Bee Better Salmon Safe Grass-Fed		\$299 to \$1600	https://tilth.org/certification/
Ecocert	US, International <hr/> Organic, Fair Trade, ROC (Regenerative Organic Certified), Rainforest Alliance & MANY more options		\$1250+ Fee Schedule https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MVHyUnA4o0ErWJCPi5yfMJ86O4dzhAw/view?usp=sharing	https://www.ecocert.com/en-US/certification
Nature's International Certification Services (NICS) part of Ecocert	US <hr/> Organic, Biodynamic, and American Grassfed Assoc.		\$450+	https://naturesinternational.com/nics/home
NOFA-NY – (NE Organic Farming Association)	Not Michigan! NY, NJ, PA, MA, CT <hr/> Organic, 100% Grass Fed		\$785+, sliding scale	https://nofany.org/certification/apply/
OMRI – Organic Materials Review Institute	To approve organic inputs for retail sale (smaller businesses can just provide a letter with sales that the ingredients are approved for organic)		\$725+	https://www.omri.org/get-listed https://www.omri.org/review-cost
QAI – Quality Assurance International	Mostly just processors, not many farms certified by QAI			https://www.qai-inc.com/certification-services/organic/
SCS Certification Services	US; Organic, Sustainably Grown, etc.			https://www.scsglobalservices.com




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Organic Exempt	Follow organic standards; Sales under \$5,000; Can say "organic", but can't use USDA organic logo	NA	\$0	https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/need-be-certified
Certified Naturally Grown	Application with list of inputs, Inspection by a CNG farmer or by an extension agent or farm educator		\$400	https://www.cngfarming.org/
MAEAP (Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program)	Prevention of water pollution on organic and conventional farms in Michigan		\$0 Not certification but verification	https://maeap.org Great for all farmers to ID placed to improve on ecological farming practices
Animal Welfare Approved/ Non-GMO/Grassfed/etc.	Online application and annual inspection Livestock welfare standards, access to pasture,		\$100 for 1, \$190 for 2 and \$270 for all 3 certifications	https://agreenerworld.org/certifications/ https://agreenerworld.org/certifications/animal-welfare-approved/
Real Organic Project	Online application; Organic standards plus hydroponics ban, etc.		\$0	https://www.realorganicproject.org/
Regenerative Organic Certified (ROC)	1.Certify organic 2.Online application & fee 3.Audit		\$350	https://regenorganic.org/
GAP	Food safety plan, extensive food safety records, annual inspection; 80% to pass		Varies, pay inspector \$90/hour	https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp
Group GAP	GAP standards, some growers inspected each year, costs are shared		Split GAP costs with group	https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/groupgap
Biodynamic	Annual application & inspection, similar to organic standards + BD preps, moon planting times		\$220 to \$350 to apply + \$400 - \$700 for inspection	https://www.demeter-usa.org/certification/



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Michigan Farmers' Pledge	Read and sign pledge		\$0	https://www.moffa.net/farmers-pledge.html
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Certified Wildlife Habitat				
Living Building Challenge	12 months of proven performance for place, water, energy, health & happiness, materials, equity and beauty		?	https://living-future.org/lbc/ https://living-future.org/programs-overview/
Driftwatch and beecheck	Map your organic farm or bee hive locations so pesticide applicators can avoid spray drift onto your farm or hives		Free	https://driftwatch.org/ https://driftwatch.org/map
Homegrown by Heroes	Farms/ag businesses owned 50%+ by veterans or active service members; Foods with 50%+ veteran produced ingredients		Free?	https://farmvetco.org/hbh/
RAWMI – Raw Milk Institute	Farmer training and mentoring; Risk Analysis and Management Plan (RAMP); Bacterial test standards for coliforms and Standard Plate Count (SPC)		?	https://www.rawmilk institute.org/how-to-become-rawmi-listed
Food Justice Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair contracts and fair pricing for farmers Fair wages and fair working conditions for workers Safe working conditions Environmental stewardship through organic practices Truth in labeling 		Sliding Scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$550 for farms selling under \$100,000/yr. \$650 up to \$250,000 	https://agriculturaljusticeproject.org/fjc/ https://certification.oeffa.org/food-justice-certification/
Equitable Food Initiative	Labor, Food Safety and Pest Management Standards			https://equitablefood.org/tools-resources
Fair Food Program				https://fairfoodprogram.org/growers/

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OMRI – Organic Materials Review Institute	To approve organic inputs for retail sale (smaller businesses can just provide a letter with sales that the ingredients are approved for organic)		\$725+	https://www.omri.org/get-listed https://www.omri.org/review-cost
Kosher	Orthodox Union			https://oukosher.org/get-certified-application/#apply-form
Halal	Halal Advisory Group			https://www.halaladvisory.ca/halal-101/ https://www.halaladvisory.ca/

Non-Organic Certification Options

Certification	Requirements	Logo	Cost	Website
Minority & Women-Owned Business Certification	<p>MBE – For-profit business in USA with 51% Black, Hispanic, Native or APIDA owners</p> <p>WBE - For-profit business in USA with 51% women owners, board members (if applicable) and a woman in the highest executive role</p>	 	<p>MBE - \$350</p> <p>WBE - \$350</p>	https://www.mwbe-enterprises.com/
Other? List here!				