

# Transitioning To Organic

## A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO TRANSITIONING TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

### 1. KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS

- a. **Cropland** must be managed organically for 36 months.
- b. **Livestock** must be managed organically from the last third of gestation.
- c. **Dairy** animals require 12 months of organic management.
- d. **Poultry** must be under continuous organic management from the second day of life.

### 2. TALK WITH YOUR LOCAL AG DEPARTMENT

For the County of San Diego, call 858-614-7786 or email [agstandards.awm@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:agstandards.awm@sdcounty.ca.gov) to get your questions answered.

### 3. START RESEARCHING THIRD PARTY ORGANIC CERTIFIERS

- a. Any operations that will either sell to a packinghouse or have more than \$5,000 per year in gross organic sales must be certified.
- b. There are several third-party organic certifiers approved to operate in the State of California that offer different services at different costs.

## MULTIPLE WAYS TO TRANSITION CROPLAND

1. **Immediate transition** – land that has not had any prohibited substances applied for the last 36 months are eligible for immediate organic registration/certification.
2. **Gradual transition** – following organic practices and requirements piecemeal over an entire farming operation.
3. **Split operations** – following organic requirements for a portion of the operation alongside conventional production
4. **Full transition** – implementing organic practices and following organic requirements with the intention that in 36 months the operation will be eligible for organic registration/certification.

## SUPPORT IN THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

The USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) can provide resources in the form of mentorship, technical assistance, and funding opportunities.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE: [Transition to Organic Partnership Program | Agricultural Marketing Service](#)

## Organic Inspections and Sampling - FY 24/25

INSPECTIONS SUMMARY					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Certified Farmers' Market:</b>	32	14			46
In Violation:	1	1			2
<b>Production Site:</b>	20	28			48
In Violation:	0	0			0
<b>Handling Facility:</b>	14	13			27
In Violation:	1	0			1
<b>Retailer:</b>	12	6			18
In Violation:	1	0			1
<b>Total Inspections:</b>	78	61			139
In Violation:	3	1			4

SAMPLING SUMMARY					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Certified Farmers' Market:</b>	2	4			6
Residues Detected	0	0			0
<b>Production Site:</b>	9	12			21
Residues Detected:	0	0			0
<b>Handling Facility:</b>	11	8			19
Residues Detected	0	0			0
<b>Retailer:</b>	14	3			17
Residues Detected:	1	1			2
<b>Total Random Samples:</b>	36	27			63
Residues Detected:	1	1			2

COMPLAINT/INVESTIGATION SUMMARY					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Investigated:</b>	1	1			2
<b>Found to be in violation:</b>	1	0			1
<b>Investigative Samples:</b>	0	0			0
<b>Residues Detected:</b>	0	0			0

