

Fiscal Year 22/23, Quarter 4 update

Biodiversity

Ensuring biodiversity in your organic operation is key to enhancing and improving the relationship between farmers and wildlife. Organic farming operations are required by the National Organic Program to adopt these biodiversity practices to be in-compliance with National organic program regulations and continue to improve the relationship between farmers and the natural environments that they occupy.



During organic production inspections, AWM inspectors document what practices growers are using to promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity that are outlined in the [NOP 5020 Guidance on Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nop.usda.gov/guidance/natural-resources-and-biodiversity-conservation), for example:

Soil Composition	Promoting diversity of crops to increase the variety of soil organisms improves nutrient cycling, fosters an environment that prevents plant pathogens, promotes long-term storage of soil carbon, increases, and aids in the survival of plants in extreme weather conditions.
	Conserving and restoring forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and wetland areas, which sequester carbon in soils and aid in cycling soil nutrients.
Soil Stability and Water Quality	Creating, conserving, and restoring vegetative covers (forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and wetland areas) that control erosion and filter nutrient, pesticide, and pathogen pollutants. Minimizing disturbances and maximizing diversity.
	Using no-till or permanent cover, conservation tillage, terracing, contour farming, micro-irrigation, windbreaks, cover crops, grass waterways and soil health practices For lands coming into production for the first time or returning to production, a new conservation plan can examine and implement a range of alternative practices to enhance the natural resources of the land.
Water Quantity	Using water conservation techniques that save water for crops, livestock, wildlife, and riparian ecosystems.
	Choosing crops and other plants that are appropriate for the climate and landscape with water conservation in mind.
	Using suitable irrigation systems, schedules, and continually monitoring for water conservation. Conserving or restoring forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian habitat, and wetland areas that absorb and hold water for long periods, as part of a healthy water cycling process.
Wildlife Benefits	Maintaining or improving diverse mixtures of plants to provide food, habitat, or shelter for pollinators, insects, spiders, and other beneficial organisms such as arthropods, bats, and raptors.
Native Species and Natural Areas of the Operation	Conserving high conservation value areas that have outstanding biodiversity importance or mitigating/restoring these areas elsewhere on the farm.
	Conserving and restoring wildlife and native plant communities specific to the site (forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian habitat, and wetland areas).
	Documenting rare, threatened, and endangered terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals, and ecologically at-risk ecosystems and taking steps to protect them Conserving wildlife corridors and large blocks of habitat that reduce fragmentation

To learn more about how you can improve the biodiversity of your growing grounds and potential funding for those practices, please contact:

- [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/)
- [California Department of Food and Agriculture](https://www.cdafarms.com/)
- [Natural Resources Conservation Service](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/)
- [Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County \(redsandiego.org\)](https://www.redsandiego.org/)
- [Wild Farm Alliance](https://www.wildfarmalliance.org/)



FY 22/23

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS SUMMARY

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Certified Farmers' Market:	16	17	21	21	75
In Violation:	2	0	1	1	4
Production Site:	19	22	23	29	95
In Violation:	0	0	0	1	1
Handling Facility:	7	8	8	7	30
In Violation:	1	1	0	1	3
Retailer:	34	13	8	24	79
In Violation:	0	4	0	0	4
Total Inspections:	67	60	60	81	279
In Violation:	3	5	1	3	12

RANDOM SAMPLING SUMMARY

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Certified Farmers' Market:	4	1	1	0	6
Residues Detected	0	0	0	0	0
Production Site:	14	13	14	2	43
Residues Detected:	0	0	0	1**	1
Handling Facility:	5	3	3	2	13
Residues Detected	1**	1* 1**	1*1**	0	5
Retailer:	35	11	7	15	68
Residues Detected:	3*1**	0	1**	0	5
Total Random Samples:	58	28	25	19	130
Residues Detected:	5	2	3	1	11

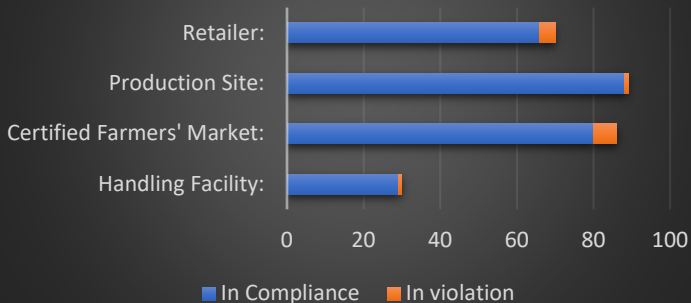
COMPLAINT/INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Investigated:	3	0	1	2	5
Found to be in violation:	2	0	0	0	2
Investigative Samples:	7	2	0	1	10
Residues Detected:	3**	0	0	1**	4

* Natural pesticide detected - in compliance

** Synthetic pesticide detected – referred to the CDFA State Organic Program for investigation

Routine Organic Inspections



Organic Sampling Summary

- Retailer - 5 with pesticide residues
- Production - 1 with pesticide residues
- Handling Facility - 5 with pesticide residues
- Certified Farmers' Market - 0 with pesticide residues

