

Organic Production in Nebraska

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This NebGuide provides an overview of organic farming in Nebraska and presents basic information on organic farming systems and how to become certified. What types of organic crops are being grown in Nebraska? Nebraska ranks 7th in organic grain production and has the 10th largest acreage of organic crops in the U.S. (Greene and Kremen, 2002) Corn, barley, edible beans, millet, oats, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and other forages are grown and marketed organically. Other organic crops such as amaranth, popcorn, blue corn, and spelt are grown under contract for a premium, and a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, sprouts, mushrooms, flowers and herbs are also grown organically in Nebraska.

Livestock can also be certified organic. In Nebraska, beef, goat, lamb, pork, poultry are being produced organically. Pasture and cropland will need to be certified when producers plan on using their own forages to feed-out their livestock. Free-range and grass-fed organic production is gaining market with consumers interested in the health benefits derived from animals raised on grass. There are many options open to Nebraska farmers who want to diversify their farming system and gain a higher price through organic production.



1. Certified Organic Grass-fed Cattle Grazing on Organic Alfalfa

What is Organic Production?

The NOP defines organic production as a production system that is managed in accordance with the NOP - Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Organic production focuses on natural processes and their management: materials and products are an adjunct to, not a replacement for, effective management. (OCIA standard 1.2.4) In general terms, *organic* means that the crop was grown without the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, or growth regulators.

In organic crop production, emphasis is placed on building the soil with organic amendments, green and animal manures and using crop rotations to enhance the cropping system's natural defenses against disease, insects, and weeds.

For organic certification a farmer will need to develop a crop rotation system, have field maps with all fields identified with either a letter or number-type system, field histories of inputs used on the fields and crops planted for the last three years and what you intend to plant for the following year, conservation practices to reduce erosion, and soil-building practices that increase soil organic matter are required.

Is Organic Farming Right For You?

Farmers are starting to look at organic production for many reasons, including philosophy about chemical use, concerns about health and safety, environmental impacts of conventional practices, and potential for increased profits. Organic farming also adds benefits for wildlife. Nebraska studies show a greater abundance and more species of birds and beneficial insects on organic farms than on comparable non-organic.

Organic farming however, is not for everyone as it requires a whole farm system of management rather than an input management approach when producing an organic product. Producing certified organic products requires a three-year period of transition and after the transition period going through an official inspected certification process. Success begins with a shift in thinking and perspectives about how to approach a whole farm system of management. Some of the changes in management begin with the farmer developing a crop rotation with the possibility of livestock into the rotation design and learning to adopt the long term vision of developing farm resources.

Organic farming involves more labor than conventional farming. For example, rather than using anhydrous ammonia as a nitrogen source, organic farming develops a crop rotation including green manure, catch crops and cover crops. Timeliness is a very important factor when using cultivation to control weeds, rather than using herbicide applications. An organic system uses an integrated management approach that typically includes crop rotations and various mechanical cultivations.



2. Fall prepared row crop ridges inter-seeded with oats

In transitioning to organic farming, it's best to start with one or two fields to learn how to develop your own integrated management approach. The transitioning process requires a three-

year period when no prohibited substances listed under the National Organic Program (NOP) are applied before harvest of the first certified organic crop:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/standards/FullRegTextOnly.html>

During the transition period, crops cannot be represented as organic and are sold on the conventional market. This three year period is an important time when the soil system begins to adjust from conventional practices to an organic farming system. Farmers will learn along with their soil's transition many new approaches to field preparation, timing of planting, and weed control during this period.



3. Buffalo Minimum Till Cultivator



4. Blade Plow with Flex-Tine Harrow

Often farmers find it useful to keep a journal or log of their field activities, recording methods of mechanically controlling weeds and other crop and field observations. Documenting helps you fine-tune practices; remember changes you made in the fields and also make better-informed decisions about integrated farming practices. Field records can include important information about difficulty or ease in cultivating to control a certain type of weed with one type of cultivator versus another. Also field notes are useful to remember the moisture and condition of the soil, wind speed and direction, daily temperature during cultivation, type of tillage operation and number of times performed, tractor used and fuel consumed, planting populations and emergence, notice weed and insect populations and subsequent observations on effectiveness of operation and crop condition.



3. Cultivating corn with a Lilliston Rolling-Finger Cultivator

Field Records:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Field Number: _____

Additional Identification: _____

Tractor: _____ Operator: _____

Time, in hours, to complete the task: _____

Fuel Consumed: _____ RPM: _____

Number of acres: _____

Wind Speed: _____ Direction: _____

Day temperature: _____ Soil Temperature: _____

Soil condition: _____

Moisture Conditions: _____

Tillage Operation: (circle one)

Disk plow field cultivator harrow cultivate planting

Culti-packer rotary hoe other: _____

Number of times worked ground: _____

Purpose of using implement: _____

Crop height and stage if applicable _____

Weed Identification and field location:

Planting Information:

Crop: _____ Planting Population: _____

Inputs: _____

Insect damage observation:

Additional Comments: _____

Crop Rotations

Western Nebraska

Some examples of normal rotations for this area would be either two crops in three years: wheat/millet/fallow, wheat/sunflower/fallow and wheat/corn/fallow; or three crops in four year: wheat/millet/sunflower/fallow, wheat/millet/corn/fallow.

Two three-year rotations: winter wheat-proso millet-summer fallow with green manure crop followed by winter wheat-sunflower-summer fallow. Sunflowers are not grown more than once every four years. In this rotation, sunflowers are grown just once every six years. This provides time for deep soil water recharge, which is necessary to have a good sunflower crop in most years.

Ken Disney, organic farmer near Lodgepole, NE follows a four year rotation: Year 1 - Fallow, Year 2 – Winter Wheat, Year 3 – Proso Millet or Sunflower, Year 4 – depending on moisture short season fallow with legume (field pea) back into Winter Wheat.

An example of a six year rotation:

Year 1: fallow - Year 2: winter wheat - Year 3: proso millet - Year 4: forage peas/grain - Year 5: winter wheat or annual forages: oats, barley, foxtail millet – Year 6: peas, sunflowers, amaranth

Eastern Nebraska

Mike Herman, organic farmer near Marquette, NE at the Grain Place has integrated livestock in his rotation: Three years grass and legume mix, soybean, corn/popcorn, small grain (barley), soybean, corn/popcorn and small grain. It is basically a three year rotation repeated, with a three year grazing/hay period. It is a farm rotation in that there are 18 fields which allow for a nine year rotation, also the same number of fields every year and approximately the same amount of acres.

An example of a four year rotation:

Year 1: soybeans - Year 2: corn - Year 3: oats/legume - Year 4: sorghum
Year 1: Corn – Year 2 – Soybeans – Year 3: Small Grain (oats, barley, spring wheat)/ alfalfa or clovers – Year 4: alfalfa/clovers



4. Swathed Oats and Alfalfa

Timely cultivation and other management strategies are used to maintain or improve soil health and thus eliminate the need for synthetic inputs. The production of crops by simply eliminating synthetic fertilizers and pesticides could be called *organic by neglect*, and like any other farming by neglect doesn't give the high yields and quality that a well-planned and implemented organic production strategy will produce.

The rewards for intensive management can be premium prices paid for the product. Marketing is done by the farmer and organic certification provides an opportunity for the farmer to achieve the best price for his/her product. Certification agencies can help coordinate with organic farmers to offer contracts and help find a market for the organic products. Farmer organizations such as Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM) coordinate producer marketing groups to benefit and sustain organic producers and their products. <http://www.ofarm.org>

Organic fertility management

Methods for building fertility in the soil without the use of chemical fertilizers are well-established. Managing cropping systems with use of animal manure, green manure crops, and rotations including legumes to naturally build soil nutrient levels is the preferred and cost-effective approach. A crop grown for the purpose of plowing back is called a green manure.

Simply replacing chemical fertilizers with purchased organic fertilizers is usually inadequate, does not meet certification requirements, and often is prohibitively expensive.

Applying animal manure is one of the oldest agricultural practices known. Composting the manure before it is applied kills bacteria, reduces odor, and stabilizes ammonium for slow release, although there is loss of nitrogen and carbon in the composting process. Other sources of organic nutrients are fish emulsions, natural phosphates, bone meal, non-GMO cottonseed meal, and seaweed.

Although not a requirement, animals are an important part of many organic production systems. In Eastern Nebraska, producers should have at least a four year rotation, which would make it possible to incorporate grazing forage for animals. This allows animals to spread manure in the field without the expense of cleaning pens, transporting and spreading manure. The farmer also has one or more additional enterprises and economic returns from the livestock produced by the system. Assessing the viability of several livestock alternatives should be part of the planning toward an organic production system. Although farming organically without livestock is possible, and some have successful organic operations, in general organic farmers feel it is not feasible to do organic farming without animals [see *Future Harvest: Pesticide-Free Farming* by Jim Bender, 1994]



5. Organic alfalfa field: livestock grazing, hay or green manure plowed-down

Growing a legume in rotation with other crops is a very important fertility-building practice. Legumes host rhizobial bacteria that form nodules on the plant roots. The bacteria

within these nodules convert atmospheric nitrogen gas into a form that plants can use (nitrogen fixation). Clovers, vetch, lupine, and alfalfa are some common legumes grown in Nebraska for their nitrogen (N) contribution as well as for sale or use on the farm as forage or for seed. Most organic farmers try to minimize the export of large amounts of forage from the farm.

Incorporating green manures makes it possible to sustain and build soil fertility. A useful reference is the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) publication *Building Soils for Better Crops* by Fred Magdoff and Harold van Es., 2nd Edition (2000)

Usually, large-seeded legumes grown for the seed, such as dry edible beans, soybeans, chickpeas and lentils, use more N in seed production than they fix in the soil. They are valuable in organic cropping systems because of their reduced need for other N inputs used to build soil N levels, and their place in the rotation. These could be called *N-sparing* crops because their nitrogen needs are far lower than those of cereals.



6. Drilling Small Grains and Clovers

Incorporating a legume or a non-legume such as oats, rye, or buckwheat returns much of the plant material to the soil as an additional source of N and other nutrients. Peas have proven to be a valuable legume for use as a green manure in the High Plains. By killing the peas at early flowering, at least 60 lbs. of N can be added for the next crop. The use of green manure crops is a principal method of incorporating soil fertility into an organic crop rotation, but the opportunity costs of the season dedicated to a cover crop must be calculated in the whole-system evaluation, and other options considered. Water use by the cover crop especially rye if not managed

correctly may reduce that available for the next harvested crop, and this must be considered in planning rotations.

Organic Pest Management

Maintaining control of crop insects is done by developing a whole system approach to your organic farming system. Integrated pest management without the application of chemical pesticides is used. There are many strategies used for managing weeds, insects, plant pathogens, and other pest. Knowledge of the lifecycle of each pest is essential to developing a management strategy.

SARE publication *Manage Insects on your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies*, Miguel Altieri and Clara Nicholls (2005) describe an ecological strategy for keeping pests at a level below where they will cause economic crop loss. They suggest three strategies:

- **Maintain a high level of crop diversity**, with varieties that are resistant or have natural defenses against pests. With healthy and vigorous plants, there will be less opportunity for growth of weeds and the system can withstand pest pressure. One key is using crop rotations, required for organic certification, and avoiding monocultures.
- **Put stress on the pests themselves by rotating crops**, interrupting pest life cycles at critical times, eliminating food sources during a part of the year, and otherwise confusing the pests by intercropping or varying planting dates.
- **Enhance beneficial insects that can help control those that are not wanted**, as well as some pathogens that can help control weeds. Using the right timing of field operations and using no chemical pesticides in an organic system can help promote beneficial species.



Pink spotted lady beetle (*Coleomegilla maculata*) and parasitic wasp (*Lysiphlebus testaceipes*) laying egg in aphid.
(Photos courtesy of UNL Dept. of Entomology).

These are excellent reasons why good crop rotations are required for organic certification, although the length of rotation and crop specifics are dependent on local conditions, agricultural styles and bioregions. Rotations are one of the most effective ways of controlling most weeds and many insects and pathogens. Planting of different types of crops – cereals after legumes, summer crops after winter crops, annual crops after perennial crops – breaks the reproductive cycles of weeds, and other pests, and allows differences in planting dates, plant densities, and periods of competition with the pests. For example, winter annual weeds may be controlled by competition from a winter crop and by clipping or grazing the crop in the spring before weed seeds are produced. Likewise, summer weeds can be controlled by cultivation, and different crops each year provide unique types of competition with weeds and thus provide a level of control. Perennial pasture in the rotation, and grazing crop residues in fall or spring, can help manage weeds.



7. Eight Row Strip Farming

Insects that over-winter in the crop residues of one crop will not find a good host the next year if different crops are in the field. Biological diversity within the field can help prevent or limit the spread of insects from a point infestation, or the spread of pathogens from the place where they first infect the crop. Examples are strip intercropping of corn/soybean/wheat, relay cropping of winter wheat/soybean, and nurse crops of spring oats to protect emergence and early establishment of an interseeded pasture mix. Diversity around the field could include flowering weed species in fence lines and nearby fallow areas that provide a refuge for beneficial insects that can help control pests.



8. Strip cropping: corn, soybeans, oats/alfalfa and clover helps maintain populations of beneficial insects on the farm by providing low levels of plant feeding insects on which to feed

Genetic resistance in crops is one of the best types of protection against insects and pathogens. Even better is to plant a multi-line variety that includes several different genetic components and diverse types of resistance, even within the same crop. This strategy has been used with success in wheat and other small grains, but is not a common practice as yet. Strong crop plants growing in a healthy soil and higher plant densities can also out-compete weeds. Many of the same strategies apply to controlling insects and pathogens in organic animal production. Designing grazing, feeding, and management strategies that does not concentrate animals, allow time outdoors and especially on pasture, and generally promote animal health will be enough to control most pest problems.

How to Start Farming Organically:

One useful strategy is to take advantage of organizations such as Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society (NSAS), this non-profit organization works with collaborative projects that support rural communities and the environment. Projects offer mentoring opportunities for beginning and experienced farmers, and opportunities for on-farm research, demonstration, and education. Each year, NSAS sponsors a Healthy Farms Conference, workshops, farm tours, and

field days. NSAS is a member of the Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. Many of the programs, workshops and farm tours are on certified organic farms where the operators are willing to share their experiences about organic production.

Prohibition of GMO's

NOP Definition: Excluded methods. A variety of methods used to genetically modify organisms or influence their growth and development by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes are not considered compatible with organic production. Such methods include cell fusion, microencapsulation and macroencapsulation, and recombinant DNA technology (including gene deletion, gene doubling, introducing a foreign gene, and changing the positions of genes when achieved by recombinant DNA technology). Such methods do not include the use of traditional breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, or tissue culture.

Farmers need to be aware of GMO inoculants. Varieties or hybrids with genetically modified genes such as Bt that are incorporated through microbial genetic methods can not be planted. Use of seed, seedlings, grafting, and rootstocks that have been modified by genetic engineering techniques is prohibited. GMO feed, supplements containing GMO corn, and similar products cannot be used. Vaccines in an organic system that have been genetically modified are not allowed in an organic system. Farmers are responsible for providing purchase receipts, material data sheets, any labeling or affidavit that would confirm the products (seed, feed, fertilizer, vaccines) they used did not contain GMO. To find out more information about GMO, look at UNL AgBiosafety: <http://agbiosafety.unl.edu/>

Following National Organic Program (NOP) Standards

If you feel organic farming is right for you then start by contacting a certification agency (listed below) to initiate the process of documenting the transitioning period. You may also want to consider contacting your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The USDA-NRCS has a special program under their Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for transitioning to organic production: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

Records of your organic activities and a paper or audit trail are important. Organic production systems require good records that allow an “audit trail” such that products can be traced from grocery shelf or feed bag to the field where it was harvested. Whether a farmer decides to transition to organic production because of environmental concerns or for economic opportunities, they need to understand and follow the organic standards under the USDA: National Organics Program (NOP):

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/standards/FullRegTextOnly.html>

205.101 Exemptions and exclusions from certification.

(a) Exemptions.

A production or handling operation that sells agricultural products as "organic" but whose gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less annually is exempt from certification under subpart E of this part and from submitting an organic system plan for acceptance or approval under § 205.201 but must comply with the applicable organic production and handling requirements of subpart C of this part and the labeling requirements of § 205.310. The products from such operations shall not be used as ingredients identified as organic in processed products produced by another handling operation.

This exemption from an inspection is designed to help farmers off-set the cost the of an inspection in a case of a farmer who only wants to sell under \$5,000 of their organic produce at their local farmers market they can tell their customers directly about their organic practices. This exemption does not exempt the farmer from following the NOP standards.

Why Follow the Standards?

Certification standards ensure that products with an organic label are truly organic, and customers pay more for that assurance. In the United States, in order to label a product “**organic**”, the regulations defined by the National Organic Program Final Rule (NOP) must be adhered to. The organic system is based on verifying compliance with NOP standards by a yearly independent inspection and verification from the certification agency. Consumers trust that the farmer has produced their products following organic standards. These standards were developed by organic producers and consumers globally. In addition the NOP can impose a fine

up to \$10,000 per violation for anyone knowingly selling or labeling as organic a product that is not organic. NOP rule 201.100 (c) (1). Some certification agencies will perform unannounced inspections.

If you have product that you wish to sell in other countries, there are additional international organic certifications you can apply for through your certifier. These certification programs may have additional or different standards so understanding your market is the best way to guarantee your product will be sold. Meeting these additional standards means you can sell products as organic in those countries.

Other Resources:

Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA)

Every year organic farmers have an inspection performed by an independent certified organic inspector. The IOIA is a non-profit association of trained farm and processing inspectors dedicated to the verification of organic production processes. IOIA was founded in 1991 by organic inspectors who recognized the need for uniform inspection processes and protocols, to build inspector skills, and promote public confidence. The mission of IOIA is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process. Certification agencies help to schedule inspections. Inspector fees vary for an inspection depending on what type of operation they are inspecting, size or complexity, time needed for the inspection, and distance traveled. (Certification agencies are listed at the end of the NebGuide)

Organic certification

In 2002 the National Organic Program (NOP) was established through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide legal and consistent regulations and certification procedures which apply to production and processing of all produce sold as organic in the United States. In order to sell products as organic, farmer, rancher or processor must first become certified by a NOP accredited certifying agency. Certification is a yearly cost and a farmer should evaluate whether he or she has enough organic product to sell in order to justify the cost.

Farmers whose gross agricultural income from organic sales total \$5,000 or less annually are exempt from certification under NOP 205.101 Exemptions and exclusions.

A list of local Nebraska and Midwest certifying agencies is found at the end of this report. Farmers should search for a certifying agency that would best fit their needs before investing time and money in the certification process. Each agency enforces the same regulations and guidelines according to the type of crop grown and market the farmer wishes to sell in though cost of certification may differ depending on what you are certifying and how the different certifiers charge, farmers should ask to see all costs up front.

Currently in the United States, there are 55 domestic and 40 foreign accredited organic certification agencies; all meet the NOP standards. For example, 14 states have a certification agency administered by the state government. Other certifying agencies are independent businesses.

The state of Nebraska has not established its own state certifying agency. In Nebraska, there are several certifying agencies. Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) is a non-profit, member-owned and operated organic association that certifies nationally and internationally. Other certifying agencies used by growers in Nebraska include Farm Verified Organic with main office in North Dakota, One Cert in Lincoln, Integrity Certified International in Bellevue, and Global Organic Alliance with an office in Ohio (see Resources).

"The USDA/NOP standards are the guidelines used by all certification agencies for products sold in the US." Some agencies market overseas and may have additional standards. Certification is renewed annually and under the NOP or JAS standards certification may be on a whole-farm or field basis.

On-farm inspection

After selecting a certification agency and completing the organic farm questionnaire/farm plan, field histories and maps or any other applicable paperwork, if a farmer is deemed by the certifier to be substantially in compliance with organic certification standards, an independent organic inspector is hired to visit the farm. The inspector verifies the statements made on the application and checks to make sure that production is in accordance with organic principles. The inspector will also examine grain handling and storage facilities to make sure that organic

commodities are stored and handled separately. The certifying organizations also provide a wealth of information on their web sites and in printed materials.

Committee consideration

Smaller certification organizations make a decision based on the applications and inspection reports. In an organization such as Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) International, which is farmer-member owned; the inspection report and all appropriate attachments are sent to the local chapter that has a certification review committee. This committee, which consists of three farmers and an external member, reviews the files for completeness and helps mentor new farmers through the certification process. When the file is complete it is forwarded to the OCIA International office for final evaluation by the OCIA Certification Specialists, a group of individuals trained to verify compliance with organic certification standards of a variety of programs.

Organic Contacts

State organic agriculture coordinator:

The Nebraska state contact for the USDA National Organics Program is:
Casey Foster
NE Dept. of Agriculture
P.O. Box 94947
Lincoln, NE, 68509-4947

Phone: 800-422-6692
Fax: 402-471-4876
Email: cfoster@agr.ne.gov

Certifying Agencies by State:

Nebraska

Integrity Certified International

1308 S. Fort Crook Rd., Ste. 8
Bellevue, NE 68005
Contact: Bob Yazowski
800-815-7852
E-mail: ryazowski@aol.com
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

OneCert

2811 Tennyson Street
Lincoln, NE 68516
Contact: Samuel K. Welsch
402-420-6080
E-mail: sam@onecert.net

Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/22/2003

Organic Crop Improvement Association

6400 Cornhusker, Ste. 125
Lincoln, NE 68507
Contact: Jeff See at 402-477-2323
E-mail: JSee@ocia.org
Website: www.ocia.org
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

Tami Highstreet

Program Director, Nebraska Chapter #1

402-474-0113
E-mail: tamih_events@YAHOO.COM

Marva Holt

Program Director, Nebraska Chapter #2
308-377-2272, Fax: 308-377-2121
Email: organics@sktdalton.net

Iowa

Certified Organic, Inc.
500 1st St.
Keosauqua, IA 52565
Contact: Nanette Rambo
866-581-6428
E-mail: certifiedorg@netins.net
Web site: www.certifiedorginc.org
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 11/12/2002

Iowa Department of Agriculture
Organic Program
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
Contact: Maury Wills
515-281-5783
E-mail: maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us
Website: www.state.ia.us/agriculture
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

Colorado

Colorado Department of Agriculture
Division of Plant Industry
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
Contact: Don Gallegos
303-239-4149
E-mail: Don.Gallegos@ag.state.co.us
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 10/16/2002

Wyoming

Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture Institute
1431 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 3
Casper, WY 82609
Contact: John Konhaus
307-237-1055
Fax: 307-237-5547

E-mail: vedicagriculture@maharishi.net
Website: www.mvoai.org
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

Wisconsin

American Food Safety Institute (AFSI)
705 Bay Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Contact: Karl G. Kolb, Ph.D.
715-723-4915
E-mail: info@goafsi.com

Website: www.goafsi.com
Scope: crop, handling
Accredited: 2/10/2003

**Midwest Organic Services Association,
Inc. (MOSA)**

PO Box 821 / 122 West Jefferson Street
Viroqua, WI 54665
Contact: Bonnie Wideman, Executive
Director

Steve Walker, Certification Manager
Phone: 608-637-2526 Fax: 608-637-7032
Email: mosa@mosaorganic.org
Accredited: 4/29/2002

Ohio

Global Organic Alliance, Inc.

P.O. Box 530
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
Contact: Betty J. Kananen
937-593-1232
kananen@logan.net
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Administration

9665 Kline Rd.
West Salem , OH 44287-9562
Contact: Stephen F. Sears
419-853-4060
E-mail: organic@oeffa.com
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

North Dakota

International Certification Services, Inc.

(dba, Farm Verified Organic and ICS-US)
301 5th Avenue, SE
Medina, ND 58467
Contact: Annie Kirschenmann
701-486-3578

E-mail: info@ics-intl.com
Website: www.ics-intl.com
Scope: crop, livestock, wild crop, handling
Accredited: 4/29/2002

Organic Grain Buyers:

West Plains – Specialty Grains

Erin Berryman or Mike Pratt
2809 S. 160th Street, Suite 309
Omaha, NE 68130
<http://westplainsco.com/>
Mike Pratt: mikep@westplainsco.com

Phone: 402-829-5116
Fax: 402-829-5170
Corn, soybeans, wheat, barley

The Scoular Company

Kevin Dvorak
kdvorak@scoular.com
2027 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68102

Phone: 800-488-3500
corn, soybeans, wheat

Heartland Mills

Rt. 1 Box 2
Marienthal, KS 67863
Phone: 620-379-4472

Fax: 620-379-4459
<http://www.heartlandmill.com/>

Certified organic processor of oats, rye, sunflowers, cornmeal, stone-ground whole

wheat flours, white flours, feed grains

Grain Place Foods

Dave Vetter
1904 N. Hwy 14
Marquette, NE 68854
Phone: 402-854-3195

Fax: 402-854-2566
Email: davegpf@hamilton.net
Popcorn, corn, soybeans, wheat, and hull-less barley

Roberts Seed, Inc.

Joe and Leisha Roberts
982 22 Road
Axtell, NE 68924
Phone: 308-743-2565

Fax: 308-743-2048
Email: robertsseed@gtmc.net
Corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, clean organically certified seeds

Grain Miller Specialty Products

<http://www.grainmillers.com/>
9531 West 78 Street, Suite 400
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 800-328-5188
Fax: 952-942-9649

Contact: Paul Drake
Email: paul.drake@grainmillers.com
Corn, soybeans and wheat

Eden Foods

<http://www.edenfoods.com/>
701 Tecumseh Rd
Clinton, MI 49236

Phone: 888-441-EDEN (3336)
Fax: 517-456-6075
all grains and beans

Clarkson Grain Company, Inc.

<http://www.clarksongrain.com/2002CGweb.htm>
PO Box 80
320 East South Street
Cerro Gordo, IL 61818
Tel: 217 763-2861

Tel: 800 252-1638
info@clarksongrain.com
soybeans, sunflower, com, wheat, buckwheat, spelt, beans, popcorn, milo

Livestock Buyers:

Organic Grassfed Beef Coalition

Angela Jackson-Pridie
PO Box 125
Vermillion, SD 57069

605-638-0748
angela.jackson@usd.edu
<http://www.organicgrassfedbeef.org/>

Natural Meats:

Family Farms and Ranches Meat Cooperative: Hog and cattle marketing cooperative limited to 'family farmers and ranchers', marketing whole animals, currently to 'natural' meat companies. Memberships available in

Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota.
Contact Gary Cwach, Board Chair,
gcwach@svtv.com.

Niman Ranch

1025 E. 12th St.
Oakland, CA 94606
T: (866) 808-0340
F: (510) 808-0339

email: info@nimanranch.com
<http://www.nimanranch.com/>

Nebraska Contact: Klint Stewart

Niman Ranch Pork Company

P.O. Box 393
1001 10th Street
Stanton, NE 68779

Phone: 402-439-5044, Mobile : 402-8414637
Fax: 402-439-5041
Email: klints@nimanranch.com

Organic meats:

Organic Valley Family of Farms

<http://organicvalley.coop/>
CROPP Cooperative
LaFarge, WI 54639
Phone: 888-444-6455
Fax: 608-625-3025
Email: organic@organicvalley.com
Matthew Provost

Regional Sales Manager:
Rocky Mountains, Plains and Texas
Phone: 303 / 823-0319
Fax: 608 / 625-3046
Mobile: 303 / 589-8741
matthew.provost@organicvalley.coop

Vegetable and Eggs:

Whole Foods/Nebraska

Lori Tatreau
402-342-4139
10020 Regency Circle
Omaha, NE 68114

402.393.1200
402.393.1221 fax
Natural Meat Program:
<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/products/meat-poultry/qualitystandards.html>

Omaha Wild Oats Natural Marketplace

Local Contact: Kay Young, Marketing
Manager
7831 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68114-3411
Hours: Monday-Sunday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Phone: 402-397-5047

Fax: 402-397-5057
Email: kyoung@wildoats.com
Call Kay about Wild Oats Wednesday
evening and Saturday morning. Farmer's
Market Opportunities at their Dodge Street
location.