THANK YOU FOR JOINING US! THE WEBINAR WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.
Webinar Management

Participants will be muted for this webinar.

If you have questions during the webinar, please “raise your hand” using the hand button or you may enter your question(s) in the Question box.
What “Assets” Mean to First Nations

- Physical Assets
- Financial/Economic Assets
- Cultural Assets
- Institutional Assets
- Natural Assets
- Assets in Indian Country
- Social Capital
- Political Assets
- Human Capital
First Nations’ Facts

1980: Founding Year
1980-2017: Provider of TTA
1993: National Grantmaking Program begins
1993-2017: Awarded 1,345 in grants; $28.9 million
First Nations’ Strategies & Programs

**5 Strategies**
- For First Nations to achieve success in our focus programs:
  - Direct Financial Support through Grantmaking
  - Technical Assistance & Training
  - Coalition-Building
  - Advocacy
  - Policy

**Achieving Native Financial Empowerment**
Native financial & investment education, economic protection & financial health/wellness, establishing financial literacy, and research.

**Nourishing Native Foods & Health**
Native foods, healthy nutrition, and food self-sufficiency.

**Advancing Household & Community Asset-Building Strategies**
Native families, individuals, development assistance, Native Women’s Initiative Grants, and Native American business and asset development.

**Investing in Native Youth**
Bridging Youth & Culture Fund, Elders’ Children’s Partnership, programs and youth-empowered relational approaches within their programs.

**Strengthening Tribal & Community Institutions**
Nonprofit & initial capacity-building activities, including the Urban Aboriginal Project, Native Arts Capacity Building Initiative, and capacity-building work, helping other programs.
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program

An Overview Presentation:
What is Organic and...
Is It an Option for Me?

Vanessa Garcia Polanco
December 7, 2017
Outline

• Origin of the U.S. Organic Sector
• What is Organic?
• National Organic Program
• The U.S. Organic Regulations
• The Organic Community
• Getting Certified Organic
• Market Overview
• Resources
Origin of the U.S. Organic Sector
The U.S. organic sector formally originated in 1990 with the passage of the Organic Food Production Act, commonly known as OFPA.
OFPA Created ...

OFPA created:

• The U.S. Organic Regulations;

• The National Organic Program (NOP); and

• The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).
What is Organic?
A production system, managed in accordance with the USDA organic regulations, to respond to site-specific conditions.

An “organic” production system:
• Integrates cultural, biological, and mechanical practices
• Fosters cycling of resources
• Promote ecological balance
• Conserves bio-diversity
A Global Organic Control System

- Standards
- Accreditation
- Certification
- Enforcement
The National Organic Program
The National Organic Program (NOP)

- **Mission:** Ensure the integrity of USDA organic agricultural products throughout the world

- **Vision:** Organic Integrity from Farm to Table, Consumers Trust the Organic Label

- **Core Role:** Implement the Organic Foods Production Act and the USDA organic regulations
The National Organic Program

- Develops and maintains organic standards
- Accredits and oversees organic certifying agents
- Ensures and enforces compliance by investigating complaints and taking enforcement actions
- Facilitates trade
- Supports the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
The U.S. Organic Regulations
Areas Covered

Organic regulations address:

- Crops;
- Wild crops;
- Livestock; and
- Handling (Processing, Packaging & Labeling).
What Lands May Be Certified as Organic?

• To be eligible for certification:
  – Land must have been free of prohibited substances for 3 years

• Both conventional and organic production may occur on the same farm

• Buffer zones may be required between organic & non-organic lands

• There are no size requirements—both small and large farms may be certified organic
General Scope of Organic Regulations

The USDA organic regulations cover the product from farm to table, including soil and water quality, pest control, livestock practices, and rules for food additives.

Organic farms and processors:
• Preserve natural resources and biodiversity
• Maintain or improve soil and water quality
• Support animal health and welfare
• Only use approved materials
• Do not use genetically modified ingredients
• Document pest, weed, and other management practices
• Receive annual onsite inspections
• Separate organic food from non-organic food
Requirements for Organic Crops

• Governed by site-specific **Organic System Plan**
• Maintain **buffer zones** to prevent prohibited substances from impacting organic areas
• **MUST NOT** use prohibited substances, sewage sludge, irradiation, or genetic engineering
• **MUST** use organic seeds and organic seedlings when commercially available
• **MUST** document pest and weed management
• **MUST** use practices that maintain or improve soil conditions and minimize erosion
• **MAY** use natural inputs and/or USDA-approved synthetic substances
Requirements for Livestock Operations

- Governed by **Organic System Plan**
- Provide *access to the outdoors* and good living conditions year-round
- Use 100% **organic feed**
- Antibiotics, growth hormones, slaughter byproducts, and genetic engineering not allowed
- **Document** the organic status of all animals
- Ruminants must have *access to pasture* during the grazing season: 30% of the animal’s dry matter intake must come from pasture; grazing season must be at least 120 days
Requirements for Processors and Handlers

- Governed by an **Organic System Plan**
- Prevent the **commingling or contamination** of organic products by non-organic products during processing
- **Prevent pests** using only approved practices
- Use **certified organic agricultural ingredients** in organically-labeled products
- Use only **approved label claims**
- **Not use irradiation or genetic engineering**
Allowed and Prohibited Substances

• The **National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances** is part of the **organic regulations**.

• The National List includes **synthetic** substances which are **allowed** and **natural** substances which are **prohibited**.

• The National List has separate sections for **crops, livestock, and handling/food processing**.

• All substances are reviewed by the **National Organic Standards Board**. The Board makes recommendations on substances to the USDA.
The Organic Community
The purpose of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is to:

- Assist in the development & maintenance of a list of substances to be used in organic production; and

- Advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA
The Organic Community

USDA

- National Organic Program (Establishes and enforces organic regulations)
- National Organic Standards Board (Advises USDA)

Certifying Agents

- Includes organizations, States, and Foreign Governments
- Responsible for Certification and Enforcement

Agents Certify Operations

Certified Organic Operations

- Farmers and Ranchers (Produce Crops, Wild Crops, and Livestock)
- Processors and Handlers (Process and Handle Organic Products)

Retailers and Consumers
USDA Accredited Certifiers

• USDA accredits and oversees organic certifiers

• Organic certifiers are third party organizations that review, inspect, and certify organic operations

• Certifiers may be for-profit, non-profit, or governmental (State or foreign governments)

• Find yours here.
Accredited Certifiers: A Critical Role

- Organic System Plan Reviews
- Annual and Unannounced Inspections
- Residue Testing
- Complaint Investigations
- Noncompliances, Suspensions, Revocations
- Mediation and Settlement Agreements
Getting Certified Organic
Why is Certification Important?

- Allows use of USDA organic seal and organic claim
- Empowers consumers to choose between production methods
- Gateway to USDA services for organic operations
- Verifies that products meet national organic standards
- Protects consumers
- Establishes level playing field for farmers, processors, and marketers
How Does a Farmer Get Certified?

1. Adopt organic practices
2. Apply for certification and pay fees
3. Receive an on-site inspection
4. Resolve any questions/concerns

Receive organic certificate

Annual Updates:

1. Document changes & pay fees
2. Receive annual inspection
3. Receive updated certificate
Common barriers to certification

Certification myths:

1. “I can’t afford organic certification.”
2. “I can’t handle the paperwork.”

Certification truths

1. Fees are on a sliding scale
2. Recordkeeping is good farm management

Plus, USDA can help with both costs and paperwork!
Who Needs to be Certified?

• If your farm or business earns more than $5,000 in gross annual organic sales, it must be certified.

• If your farm or business earns less than $5,000 in gross annual organic sales, it is considered “exempt” from two key requirements:
  – Certification. Your farm or business is not required to be certified in order to sell, label, or represent your products as organic.
  – USDA Organic Seal: If uncertified, you may not use the USDA organic seal on your products or refer to them as certified organic.
Not just farms, but...

- Slaughter facilities
- Custom harvesters
- Co-packers
- Seed cleaners

NOP 4009 Instruction and Q&A: Who Needs to be Certified?
An Overview of the U.S. Organic Market
An Overview: The U.S. Organic Market

Organic food is sold to U.S. consumers through conventional grocery stores, natural food stores, and direct-to-consumer markets.

The U.S. organic sector:

– Is the fastest growing of the U.S. food industry
– Has been on a double digit growth trend
– Has tripled in total size since 2002
– Is estimated at over $47 billion
– Accounts for over 5 percent of total U.S. food sales
Top Organic States

Top 10 organic states (# of organic farms):

- California
- Wisconsin
- New York
- Washington
- Pennsylvania
- Iowa
- Ohio
- Minnesota
- Oregon
- Michigan
Top Organic Commodities

Top 3 organic commodities

• Fruits & Vegetables
• Dairy
• Packaged / Prepared Foods
Online Training Modules

- **Organic Training**
  - The Road to Organic Certification
  - The Path to Sound and Sensible Organic Inspections
  - Organic Integrity in the Supply Chain
- **Organic 101**
- **Organic 201**
- **Sound and Sensible Organic Certification Resources:**
  - The Value Proposition, Tips and Guides
- **Fact Sheets**

INTEGRITY Database

- Find certified organic operations
- Find certified organic products
- Find accredited certifiers
- organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/

Welcome to the Organic INTEGRITY Database!

Find a specific certified organic farm or business, or search for an operation with specific characteristics. Listings come from USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents. Historical Annual Lists of Certified Organic Operations and monthly snapshots of the full data set are available for download on the Data History page. Only certified operations can sell, label or represent products as organic, unless exempt or excluded from certification.

Certifier: [Search Input]  Reset

Advanced Search

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Insider Emails

USDA Organic Insider

• Sign up for updates on issues related to organic production
• Announcements of NOSB meetings
• Rulemaking and Handbook updates
• Comment opportunities

http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop
Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

• Reimbursements for up to 75% of the cost of certification
• Maximum of $750 per year, per area of certification
  – Certification areas: crops, livestock, handling/processing, wild crops
• Contact your State’s Department of Agriculture, or access more information at:

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index
Conservation Programs for Organic Producers

• Conservation technical assistance
  – On-farm conservation planning for organic and transitional
  – Helps with paperwork – can complete part of your organic application

• Financial assistance
  – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
  – Conservation Stewardship Program

• Access more information at:
  www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic
Organic Portal at www.usda.gov/organic

- One-stop for programs, services, and educational materials related to organic
Thank You

Organic Integrity from Farm to Table, Consumers Trust the Organic Label

NOP Phone: 202-720-3252
Website: www.ams.usda.gov
THANK YOU JOINING OUR WEBINAR TODAY!

Recording and attachments can be downloaded from www.firstnations.org/fnk by Thursday, December 8, 2017
Thank you!

Don’t miss out on our upcoming webinars:

• Tribal Agritourism Marketing Tools, Part 1: Using New Media to Control Message
  • December 7th at 2pm MT

• Tribal Agritourism Marketing Tools, Part 2: Using NativeAmerica.travel to Promote Tourism and Your Agribusiness Products
  • December 14th at 2pm MT

Registration can be found at www.firstnations.org/fnk (as well as all previous webinar recordings and handouts).