

**§ 6513. Organic plan****(a) In general**

A producer or handler seeking certification under this chapter shall submit an organic plan to the certifying agent and the State organic certification program (if applicable), and such plan shall be reviewed by the certifying agent who shall determine if such plan meets the requirements of the programs.

**(b) Crop production farm plan****(1) Soil fertility**

An organic plan shall contain provisions designed to foster soil fertility, primarily through the management of the organic content of the soil through proper tillage, crop rotation, and manuring.

**(2) Manuring****(A) Inclusion in organic plan**

An organic plan shall contain terms and conditions that regulate the application of manure to crops.

**(B) Application of manure**

Such organic plan may provide for the application of raw manure only to—

- (i) any green manure crop;
- (ii) any perennial crop;
- (iii) any crop not for human consumption; and
- (iv) any crop for human consumption, if such crop is harvested after a reasonable period of time determined by the certifying agent to ensure the safety of such crop, after the most recent application of raw manure, but in no event shall such period be less than 60 days after such application.

**(C) Contamination by manure**

Such organic plan shall prohibit raw manure from being applied to any crop in a way that significantly contributes to water contamination by nitrates or bacteria.

**(c) Livestock plan**

An organic livestock plan shall contain provisions designed to foster the organic production of livestock consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

**(d) Mixed crop livestock production**

An organic plan may encompass both the crop production and livestock production requirements in subsections (b) and (c) if both activities are conducted by the same producer.

**(e) Handling plan**

An organic handling plan shall contain provisions designed to ensure that agricultural products that are sold or labeled as organically produced are produced and handled in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

**(f) Management of wild crops**

An organic plan for the harvesting of wild crops shall—

- (1) designate the area from which the wild crop will be gathered or harvested;
- (2) include a 3 year history of the management of the area showing that no prohibited substances have been applied;

(3) include a plan for the harvesting or gathering of the wild crops assuring that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop; and

(4) include provisions that no prohibited substances will be applied by the producer.

**(g) Limitation on content of plan**

An organic plan shall not include any production or handling practices that are inconsistent with this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, §2114, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3943.)

**§ 6514. Accreditation program****(a) In general**

The Secretary shall establish and implement a program to accredit a governing State official, and any private person, that meets the requirements of this section as a certifying agent for the purpose of certifying a farm or handling operation as a certified organic farm or handling operation.

**(b) Requirements**

To be accredited as a certifying agent under this section, a governing State official or private person shall—

- (1) prepare and submit, to the Secretary, an application for such accreditation;
- (2) have sufficient expertise in organic farming and handling techniques as determined by the Secretary; and
- (3) comply with the requirements of this section and section 6515 of this title.

**(c) Additional documentation and verification**

The Secretary, acting through the Deputy Administrator of the national organic program established under this chapter, has the authority, and shall grant a certifying agent the authority, to require producers and handlers to provide additional documentation or verification before granting a certification under section 6503 of this title, in the case of a compliance risk with respect to meeting the national standards for organic production established under section 6504 of this title, as determined by the Secretary or the certifying agent.

**(d) Accreditation of foreign organic certification program****(1) In general**

For an agricultural product being imported into the United States to be represented as organically produced, the Secretary shall require the agricultural product to be accompanied by a complete and valid national organic import certificate, which shall be available as an electronic record.

**(2) Tracking system****(A) In general**

The Secretary shall establish a system to track national organic import certificates.

**(B) Integration**

In establishing the system under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may integrate the system into any existing information track-