

Organic Certification: Getting Started

Ted Radovich and Jody Smith

Organic growers should be certified by an accredited third party agency. Certification is an assurance to consumers, retailers and brokers of organic produce that the produce marketed as “certified organic” has been grown under standards set by the National Organic Program. Growers with less than \$5,000 in annual organic sales are exempted from the certification requirement, but are encouraged to file an affidavit of NOP compliance with a third party certifier. Certification costs will vary, but a significant portion of the cost may be reimbursed by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. To begin the certification process, contact one of the certification agencies operating in Hawaii for an application. An important part of your application is describing your organic system plan (OSP). For technical assistance developing an OSP contact The University of Hawai'i Organic Program: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/organic/>.



For more information of getting started with certification see:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3004346&acct=nopgeninfo>

Hawaii Department of Agriculture Organic Certification Cost Share Program

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/md/usda-organic-certification-cost-share-programs/>

USDA National Organic Program

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/NOP>

CTAHR Organic Agriculture Program: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/organic/>

Table 1. List of USDA accredited third party certifiers operating in Hawaii.

Compiled from: USDA National Organic Program 2012 List of certified USDA organic operations (<http://apps.ams.usda.gov/nop/>)

Certification Agency	Number of Operations Certified	Percent of Operations Certified
CCOF Certification Services	5	4%
International Certification Services	88	63%
Organic Certifiers	35	25%
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic	7	5%
Quality Assurance International	1	1%
Stellar Certification Services	3	2%
TOTAL	135	100%

CCOF Certification Services, LLC (CCOF)

Scopes: Crop, livestock, wild crop, handling

2155 Delaware Ave, Suite 150

Santa Cruz, CA 95060USA

Contact Jake Lewin

Phone: 831-423-2263

Email: ccof@ccof.org

International Certification Services, Inc (ICS)

Scopes: Crop, livestock, wild crop, handling

301 5th Ave SE

Medina, ND 58467 USA

Contact Dawn Krapp

Phone: 701-486-3578

Email: info@ics-intl.com

Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO)

Scopes: Crop, livestock, wild crop, handling

260 SW Madison Avenue Suite 106

Corvallis, OR 97333 USA

Contact Connie Karr

Phone: 503-378-0600

Email: connie@tilth.org

Organic Certifiers, Inc (OC)

Scopes: Crop, livestock, wild crop, handling

6500 Casitas Pass Rd.

Ventura, CA 93001 USA

Contact Susan Siple

Phone: 805-684-6494

Email: susan@organiccertifiers.com

Quality Assurance International (QAI)

Scopes: Crop, livestock, wild crop, handling

9191 Towne Center Dr., Suite 200

San Diego, CA 92122 USA

Contact Craig S. Morr

Phone: 734-769-5143

Email: CMorr@nsf.org

Stellar Certification Services (STEL)

Scopes: Crop, livestock, wild crop, handling

P.O. Box 1390

Philomath, OR 97370 USA

Contact Sally Lammers

Phone: 541-929-7148

Email: Sally@Demeter