

CALIFORNIA STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM

All operators that represent and sell commodities as organic are required to register their operation with California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) or California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Organic Registration Program. Operations with gross annual organic sales less than \$5,000 are not required to obtain organic certification, but are still obligated to follow the production and recordkeeping requirements of the NOP regulations.



History of MCCO

The MCCO program was created within the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in effort to streamline the organic certification process for organic operators. MCCO staff is uniquely trained and qualified to assist organic operators with obtaining organic certification; as well as meet other local, state, and federal agricultural requirements.

Additionally, MCCO was the first county agency to register as an organic certifier with the California State Organic Program and is only one of three California counties to receive USDA NOP Accreditation.



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GET CERTIFIED ORGANIC



Monterey County Certified Organic
(MCCO)

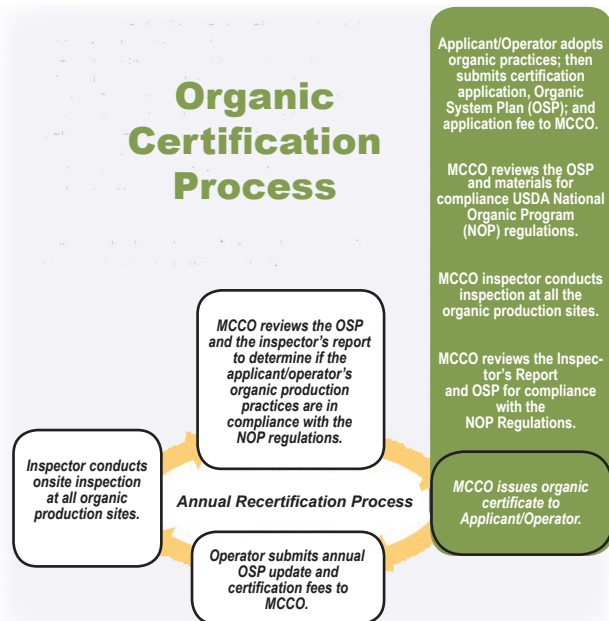
MONTEREY COUNTY CERTIFIED ORGANIC (MCCO)

MCCO is dedicated to supporting the local agricultural community and offers organic certification in the scopes of crop, handler/processor, and wild crop.

MCCO's purpose and objectives:

- Support the local organic agricultural community, availability of organic crops, and biodiversity.
- Provide operators with public resources for assistance with National Organic Program (NOP) requirements.
- Collaborate with other public agencies and organizations to share information about organic production practices and regulations; and to learn about efficiencies and new technology in organic production.

Organic Certification Process



MCCO Certification Fees *

Application Fee [non-refundable].....\$275.00
 Site Inspection Fee, plus mileage
 (current IRS reimbursement).....\$76.00 per hour

Annual Fee for Crop:

Less than 2 acres..... \$200.00
 2 to 5 acres.....\$350.00
 5 to 15 acres.....\$1,200.00
 15 to 50 acres.....\$1,950.00
 50 to 75 acres.....\$2,700.00
 75 to 100 acres.....\$3,250.00
 Over 100 acres.....\$3,750.00

Annual Fee for Handler/Processor:

Up to 10,000 cartons.....\$240.00
 10,001 to 25,000 cartons.....\$450.00
 25,001 to 50,000 cartons.....\$825.00
 50,001 to 75,000 cartons.....\$1,250.00
 75,001 to 150,000 cartons.....\$2,475.00
 150,001 to 200,000 cartons.....\$3,300.00
 200,001 to 300,000 cartons.....\$4,950.00
 300,001 to 400,000 cartons.....\$6,600.00
 Over 400,001 cartons.....\$8,250.00

*Additional fees may apply

Cost Share Program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NOP provided funds to the Cost Share Program, to assist operators with the cost of organic certification fees.

Accordingly, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be distributing reimbursements to organic operations that are certified by a USDA-accredited certifying agent (ie. MCCO) and submitted the application by the annual deadline. Eligible operations may be reimbursed up to 75% of their organic certification fees (not to exceed \$750 per scope).

MONTEREY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

In addition to organic registration and/or organic certification, organic operators may be required to obtain additional official government documentation. Various departments within the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office may assist operators with these requirements, including the following:

ORGANIC REGISTRATION, MCCO ORGANIC CERTIFICATION, and COST SHARE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS.

Contact Monterey County Certified Organic (MCCO) Department.

OPERATOR ID is required prior to purchase and use of pesticides in each county where pesticides are applied for agricultural production. Contact Pesticide Use Enforcement (PUE) Department.

CERTIFIED PRODUCER CERTIFICATE (CPC)

is required to sell certified agricultural products within the certified area at a Certified Farms Market. Contact the Fruits & Vegetables (F&V) and Standardization Department.

CERTIFIED SCALE is required for all commodities that are weighed and priced at the point of sale. Contact the Weights and Measures Department.

NURSERY LICENSE is required for operators that grow and sell a total of \$1,000 in nursery stock annually. Contact the Pest Detection Department.

Agricultural Commissioner's Office
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