

# Organic farming systems

www.new-ag.msu.edu

**New Ag**  
**Network**  
Midwest Organic Team  
Fact Sheet 08  
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Organic field crops at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Hickory Corners, MI.



Crimson clover in wheat stubble.

## Additional information sources for organic certification

### Record systems

Low-cost online record-keeping program: [www.farmnotebook.com](http://www.farmnotebook.com). First month is free to try. Please note that this is not a product endorsement.

Michigan State University's farm accounting software, Telfarm: [www.canr.msu.edu/telfarm/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/telfarm/).

Michigan State University's comparison of agriculture bookkeeping software: [http://dairyteam.msu.edu/articles/bus\\_finl/accounting\\_software\\_comparisons.pdf](http://dairyteam.msu.edu/articles/bus_finl/accounting_software_comparisons.pdf).

North Carolina Cooperative Extension's template and examples of a spreadsheet for organic farms: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/orgrecords.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/orgrecords.html).

### National organizations

The National Organic Program: [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov). NOP and USDA guidelines for certified organic food, contact information for certifying agents and consumer information.

Extension/eOrganic. General organic agriculture resources: [www.extension.org/organic\\_production](http://www.extension.org/organic_production).

Organic Trade Association: [www.ota.com/index.html](http://www.ota.com/index.html). Provides information on upcoming organic agricultural events and organic business directories.

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA): [www.attra.org/organic.html](http://www.attra.org/organic.html). USDA site with fact sheets on organic farming, marketing, certification and production options.

Rodale Institute's New Farm: [www.newfarm.org/](http://www.newfarm.org/). Online magazine that includes organic farm practices and ideas for growing quality organic produce and crops. Site includes a comparison of organic certifying agencies.

USDA Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC): [www.afsic.nal.usda.gov](http://www.afsic.nal.usda.gov). Resources about sustainable food systems and practices for agriculture and farmers worldwide.

Organic Materials Review Institute: [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org). Searchable site of products allowed in organic production.

USDA Economic Research Service: [www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Organic](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Organic). This is the USDA's primary source of economic information and research. See the ERS' Organic Agriculture Briefing Room with features on organic market data, recommended reading and recent research developments.



Spreading manure onto a farm.

## Midwest organizations

MOSES: [www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org). Upper Midwest organic non-profit organization that offers technical resources and an events calendar.

The New Agriculture Network: [www.new-ag.msu.edu](http://www.new-ag.msu.edu). Joint effort of Michigan State University, Purdue University and the University of Illinois. Farmers, researchers and extension educators report on a variety of practices and new findings useful for organic growers.

Michigan State University's Organic Farming Exchange: [www.michiganorganic.msu.edu](http://www.michiganorganic.msu.edu). Fact sheets about organic vegetable and field crop production, organic certification and a calendar of events.

Michigan Organic Food and Farming Alliance: [www.MOFFA.org](http://www.MOFFA.org). An organization of farmers and consumers promoting organic and local food by building connections among healthy people, communities and the environment.



Using a shield cultivator in newly emerged soybeans.

### A partial list of NOP accredited organic certifying agencies currently conducting certification in the Upper Midwest

<p><b>Global Organic Alliance, Inc.</b> 3185 TPW RD 179 P.O. Box 530 Bellefontaine, OH 43311 (937) 593-1232 <a href="mailto:kananen@logan.net">kananen@logan.net</a> <a href="http://www.goa-online.org">www.goa-online.org</a></p>	<p><b>Ohio Ecological Food &amp; Farm Association (OEFFA)</b> 9665 Kline Rd. West Salem, OH 44287 (419) 853-4060 <a href="mailto:organic@oeffa.org">organic@oeffa.org</a> <a href="http://www.oeffa.org/certification.php">www.oeffa.org/certification.php</a></p>
<p><b>Indiana Certified Organic, LLC.</b> 8364 S. State Rd. 39 Clayton, IN 46118 (317) 539-4317 Fax: (317)-539-2739 <a href="mailto:icollc@earthlink.net">icollc@earthlink.net</a></p>	<p><b>Oregon Tilth Certified Organic</b> 470 Lancaster Dr. NE Salem, OR 97301 (503) 378-0690 <a href="mailto:organic@tilth.org">organic@tilth.org</a>, <a href="http://www.tilth.org/certification/index.html">www.tilth.org/certification/index.html</a></p>
<p><b>International Certification Services, Inc.</b> 301 5th Ave. SE Medina, ND 58467 (701) 486-3578 <a href="mailto:info@ics-intl.com">info@ics-intl.com</a> <a href="http://www.ics-intl.com">www.ics-intl.com</a></p>	<p><b>Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)</b> 6400 Cornhusker, Suite 125 Lincoln, NE 68507 (402) 477-2323 <a href="mailto:bkozisek@ocia.org">bkozisek@ocia.org</a> <a href="http://www.ocia.org">www.ocia.org</a></p>
<p><b>Midwest Organic Services Association, Inc. (MOSA)</b> 122 W. Jefferson St. P.O. Box 821 Viroqua, WI 54665 (608) 637-2526 <a href="mailto:mosa@mosaorganic.org">mosa@mosaorganic.org</a> <a href="http://www.mosaorganic.org">www.mosaorganic.org</a></p>	<p><b>Quality Assurance International (QAI)</b> 9191 Towne Centre Drive, Suite 510 San Diego, CA 92122 (858) 792-3531 <a href="mailto:marian@qai-inc.com">marian@qai-inc.com</a> <a href="http://www.qai-inc.com">www.qai-inc.com</a></p>

This list is not intended as an endorsement of agencies, but is a list of those who currently certify farms in the Midwest (6/09).

For a complete list visit the USDA-NOP site:  
[www.ams.usda.gov/nop/CertifyingAgents/Accredited.html](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/CertifyingAgents/Accredited.html).

## Individual state information

### Illinois

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University of Illinois Extension  
State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator  
P.O. Box 410  
Greenview, IL 626442  
217-968-5512  
[cvnghgrn@illinois.edu](mailto:cvnghgrn@illinois.edu)  
[www.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm)

### Michigan

Vicki Morrone  
Specialist-Outreach  
Dept. of CARRS  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
517-353-3542  
[sorrone@msu.edu](mailto:sorrone@msu.edu)

Visit [www.michiganorganic.msu.edu](http://www.michiganorganic.msu.edu) for fact sheets and information about all aspects of organic farming and organic certification.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture can also assist new farmers. Contact Colleen Collier at [collierc@michigan.gov](mailto:collierc@michigan.gov), or visit the MDA's Web site at [www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1567--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1567--,00.html) for information on registering your farm and about organic agriculture.

This fact sheet was created by members of the Midwest Organic Team of the New Ag Network. [www.new-ag.msu.edu](http://www.new-ag.msu.edu).



The Midwest Organic Team is a division of the New Ag Network. The team consists of researchers, extension educators and certified organic farmers.

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