Why Organic?

- Organic certification allows you to use the USDA organic seal on your 100% organic and organic products.
- The demand for certified organic foods is increasing steadily as consumers seek a healthy diet and become more aware of the environmental benefits provided by organic farmers.
- Organic products generally sell for a higher price at market which provides potential for a higher profit margin.
- Organic certification promotes consumer confidence in product quality and production standards. Certified organic operations comply with USDA NOP regulations that are viewed around the globe as a leader in the organic food industry.
- Organic practices emphasize building healthy soils and recycling farm nutrients. These practices protect soil, water and other natural resources from degradation and pollution.

Fee Schedule

- Initial application fee $750
  All-inclusive flat fee for initial certification.
- Annual update fee $200
- Sales assessment 0.5% of gross organic sales

Total certification costs are capped at a maximum of $7,500 annually.

- Exempt operations (<$5,000) $200
  Flat annual fee for all certification services.

Certified organic producers are eligible for USDA Cost Share, which reimburses 75% of all certification costs, up to $750 per scope. Contact Amy London at alondon@scda.sc.gov.
Who We Are

Clemson University's Organic Certification Program is a USDA National Organic Program accredited certifying agent. This accreditation allows Clemson to certify organic operations for crop production, processing and handling, livestock and wild harvest.

Clemson University focuses on serving the organic community in the state of South Carolina. Our program is intended to provide third party organic certification as a public service to our state's agricultural industry. Our fee structure is designed to reduce financial barriers and encourage all producers using organic practices to seek organic certification.

Organic certification promotes consumer confidence, opens producers up to new markets and permits the full marketing power of the USDA organic seal. The organic food industry is the fastest growing segment of food production and we believe South Carolina is an excellent place to produce quality organic agricultural products.

We strive to provide the highest quality certification service for our clients. Efficiency and thoroughness allow our clients to complete the certification process in a timely manner while knowing that the highly regarded integrity of the USDA National Organic Program is upheld.

Certification Process

- Applicant submits completed organic system plan with applicable fees to Clemson University Organic Certification Program.

- Clemson reviews the organic system plan for compliance with the USDA National Organic Program standards.

- Clemson assigns the file to a staff inspector who performs an on site inspection to ensure the organic system plan is being implemented.

- A certification decision is then made based on the findings of the organic system plan review and organic inspection.

- If the application is approved, Clemson issues an organic certificate to the applicant.

- The certified operation submits an annual organic system plan update with applicable fees and Clemson conducts an inspection.

Our Clients

- Crop producers
- Processors
- Handling operations
- Livestock operations
- Greenhouses
- Mushroom producers
- Hydroponic operations
- Cosmetic and skin care producers
- Coffee roasters
- Breweries
- Distilleries
- Wineries
- Restaurants