

## Are GMO's allowed in Organic Production?

The organic regulations do not allow the use of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in the production of certified organic products. Consumers wishing to avoid GMOs should look for the USDA logo to ensure the product is free from GMOs.



## What products can be Certified?

Any agriculture product can be certified. The four areas of certification are: Crop, Wild Crop, Livestock and Handling/Processing.

Any producer who is raising fruits, vegetables, other plants, cattle, poultry, swine, sheep, goat, and other livestock are eligible for certification.

Processors and handlers can be certified as: coffee roasters, butchers shops, milk and cheese processing, cosmetics, health and beauty aids, and many more.

## Additional Information

*For more information on KDA's Organic Certification Program visit :*  
[www.kyagr.com/marketing/organic-marketing.html](http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/organic-marketing.html)

*For more information on the National Organic Program visit:*

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>

## Where can I find Certified Organic products or producers?

*Organic Integrity Database is a national level database that is routinely updated by certifiers.*

<https://organic.ams.usda.gov/integrity/>



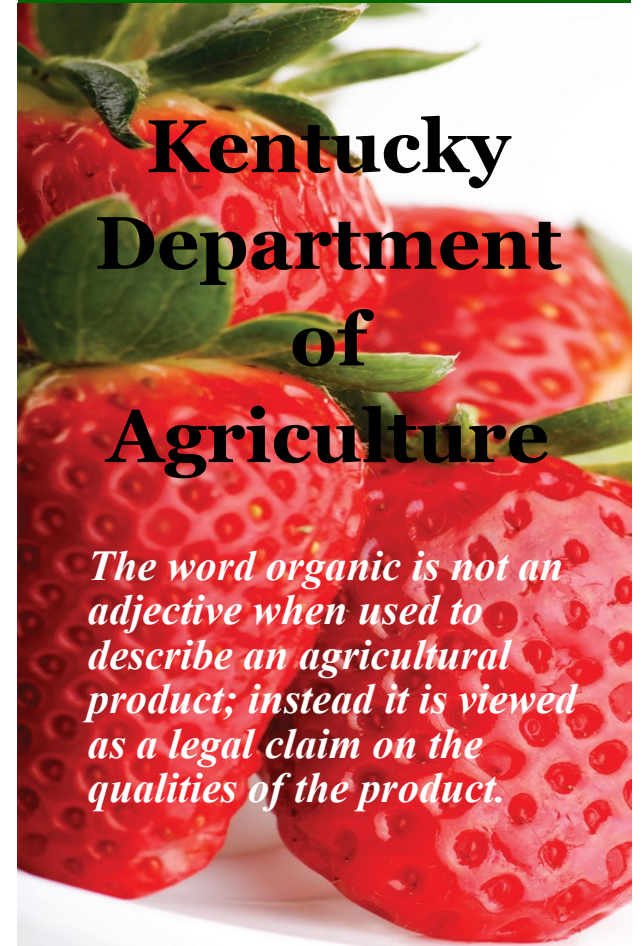
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# ORGANIC Answers for Consumers

## Kentucky Department of Agriculture

*The word organic is not an adjective when used to describe an agricultural product; instead it is viewed as a legal claim on the qualities of the product.*



## What is Organic Agriculture?

Organic agriculture is a system that integrates cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance and conserve biodiversity. In the US the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) sets the standards and regulations that must be followed to be CERTIFIED ORGANIC.

## What is CERTIFIED ORGANIC?

Agricultural products can only be labeled **CERTIFIED ORGANIC** after the producer becomes certified through an accredited certifier, such as the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The certifier verifies that a producer is following all the requirements of the regulations through an annual application and inspection process.

## What is unique about CERTIFIED ORGANIC production?

Generally speaking, synthetic fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, other synthetic products, sewage sludge, irradiation and genetic engineering (GMOs) may NOT be used.

## What do these labels mean?

### 100% Organic

All ingredients except water and salt must be certified organic. {water and salt are ineligible for organic certification}

### Organic

95% of the ingredients must be certified organic. The remaining 5% can not have prohibited substances or GMOs.

### Made with Organic Ingredients

70% of the ingredients must be certified organic; ingredient statement identifies certified organic ingredients. The remaining 30% can not have prohibited substances or GMOs.



*This USDA Organic Seal can only be used on certified products that are 100% Organic or Organic.*

## If a label says ORGANIC does that mean it is certified?

Only if the product contains the USDA Organic seal and/or if the label specifies "Certified Organic by" and lists the certifier can you be certain that it is certified.

Producers who sell less than \$5,000 worth of organic products per year are considered exempt, and are not required to be certified. Exempt operations are required to register with the KDA's Organic Program and are required to adhere to all USDA Organic standards.

## Other labels you may see:

Other labeling terms, such as "All Natural", "Naturally Grown", "Chemical Free" etc. may not have formal standards or a verification process to protect the consumer.

Certified organic products can be viewed with confidence as the standards are codified into federal law and adherence to the regulations is monitored by a third party, a USDA accredited certifier.

The USDA accredited certifier is itself monitored and audited to verify it is correctly applying the regulations.