



Producer Pre-Office Visit Checklist

NRCS EQIP Interim Practice #823 “Organic Management”

BACKGROUND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that aids landowners, farmers, and ranchers with technical assistance and funds to implement activities and improve facilities that address natural resources and productivity issues on their land.

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides partial funding to add **new practices** to the land that promote soil and water quality through long term mitigation measures that are designed to fix current problems and prevent future degradation.

In 2023, NRCS introduced #823 for Organic Management. This practice helps those transitioning to organic and existing organic producers by adding conservation practices to their land which are useful in achieving and maintaining organic certification. Examples include improving pasture for ruminants, or lessening soil erosion by adding contour strips or grassed waterways where needed.

Practice #823 is a suite of practices, not just one activity, and depending on the type of farming being done (vegetables, row crops, livestock, or a mix of enterprises), the payment per acre can be significant (\$200 to \$2,000). The higher the payments, the more the landowner must do on their land.

This checklist is a tool to help farmers and the NRCS staff get a snapshot of the resource concerns on the land that could benefit from NRCS #823. Farmers may complete this form and take it to their local NRCS office for further discussion. **Please also take an aerial map of the farm and note where your resource concerns are located if you can.**

RESOURCES

FIND YOUR LOCAL SERVICE CENTER

offices.sc.egov.usda.gov

ASK USDA CONTACT CENTER

1-833-ONE-USDA (English & Spanish options)

OFA'S FARMER SERVICES TEAM

OrganicFarmersAssociation.org/FarmerHelpLine
833) 724-3834

helpline@organicfarmersassociation.org

USDA Website

usda.gov/topics/organic

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program

ORGANIC COST SHARE PROGRAM

fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occspp



**ORGANIC FARMERS
ASSOCIATION**

NRCS staff will visit the land before any final applications for funding are written. They may find more or different opportunities beyond what's communicated in this checklist.

- 1. Name(s) of landowner: _____
- 2. Name of renter if applicable: (long-term lease required to obtain NRCS funds) _____
- 3. Location of land: (address or near by crossroads) _____
- 4. County where land is located: _____
- 5. Phone number: _____ Email: _____
- 6. How many acres do you own? _____ How many years have you owned the land? _____
- 7. How many years have you been in transition to organic? _____ Farming organically? _____
- 8. Do you grow specialty crops (vegetables, fruits, nuts)? Which crops? _____
- 9. Do you grow row crops and/or small grains? Which? _____
- 10. Do you have livestock? How many? Which species? _____
- 11. What are your farming goals for the next 5 years? _____
- 12. What are your conservation goals? _____

13. Have you worked with NRCS in the past? Which practices? _____

14. In review of your land, your future farming, and conservation goals do you have issues with?	YES	NO	MAYBE
a. Water runoff that causes small gullies in your fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Wind causes soil to leave your field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Pesticide or chemical fertilizer drift or runoff from a neighbor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Installation of beneficial insect habitat at field edges or larger tracts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Larger gullies in fields, on field or pasture roads, or barnyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Erosion along stream banks caused by high water events/farm activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Input caused salt buildup or soil organism habitat degradation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Soil crusting, reduced H2O infiltration or holding capacity, soil carbon loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Ponding, flooding, water seeping into fields (annually or periodically)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Depletion of surface waters or ground water due to farm activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Irrigation systems do not store or apply water efficiently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Nutrients and/or pesticides are transported to surface or ground waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Plant productivity/health affected by improper fertility or site management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Plant communities degraded and can't provide desired feed or habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Plants degraded by insects, animals, plants, pathogens or diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. High tunnel could aid with season extension, plant protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Mulching could help with water retention and weed management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Improve water infiltration and soil health by applying gypsum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s. Construct facility to create aerobic compost for use or sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t. Improve crop rotation for better soil health, organic matter, reduce erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u. Feed or forage quality nutritionally inadequate for farm livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v. Livestock shelter inadequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
w. Quantity, quality, or distribution of water for livestock inadequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
x. Inefficient energy use (Ex: equipment, facilities, or field operations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
y. Field roads, livestock trails, stream crossings eroded, or degraded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
z. Fencing insufficient for rotational (prescribed) grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
aa. Plan needed for rotational (prescribed) grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
bb. Plan needed for nutrient management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cc. Plan needed for crop pest/disease management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
dd. Plan needed for improved native plant communities/insects/savannah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ee. Plan needed for transition to organic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>