



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

farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator

ASK USDA CONTACT CENTER

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

OFA'S FARMER SERVICES TEAM

OrganicFarmersAssociation.org/FarmerHelpLine
helpline@organicfarmersassociation.org
833) 724-3834

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/occsp





NRCS staff will visit the land before any final applications for funding are written. They may find more or different opportunities beyond what is 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	☐	☐	☐
b. Wind causes soil to leave your field	☐	☐	☐
c. Pesticide or chemical fertilizer drift or runoff from a neighbor	☐	☐	☐
d. Installation of beneficial insect habitat at field edges or larger tracts	☐	☐	☐
e. Larger gullies in fields, on field or pasture roads, or barnyards	☐	☐	☐
f. Erosion along stream banks caused by high water events/farm activities	☐	☐	☐
g. Input caused salt buildup or soil organism habitat degradation	☐	☐	☐
h. Soil crusting, reduced H2O infiltration or holding capacity, soil carbon loss	☐	☐	☐
i. Ponding, flooding, water seeping into fields (annually or periodically)	☐	☐	☐
j. Depletion of surface waters or ground water due to farm activities	☐	☐	☐
k. Irrigation systems do not store or apply water efficiently	☐	☐	☐
l. Nutrients and/or pesticides are transported to surface or ground waters	☐	☐	☐
m. Plant productivity/health affected by improper fertility or site management	☐	☐	☐
n. Plant communities degraded and can't provide desired feed or habitat	☐	☐	☐
o. Plants degraded by insects, animals, plants, pathogens or diseases	☐	☐	☐
p. High tunnel could aid with season extension, plant protection	☐	☐	☐
q. Mulching could help with water retention and weed management	☐	☐	☐
r. Improve water infiltration and soil health by applying gypsum	☐	☐	☐
s. Construct facility to create aerobic compost for use or sale	☐	☐	☐
t. Improve crop rotation for better soil health, organic matter, reduce erosion	☐	☐	☐
u. Feed or forage quality nutritionally inadequate for farm livestock	☐	☐	☐
v. Livestock shelter inadequate	☐	☐	☐
w. Quantity, quality, or distribution of water for livestock inadequate	☐	☐	☐
x. Inefficient energy use (Ex: equipment, facilities, or field operations)	☐	☐	☐
y. Field roads, livestock trails, stream crossings eroded, or degraded	☐	☐	☐
z. Fencing insufficient for rotational (prescribed) grazing	☐	☐	☐
aa. Plan needed for rotational (prescribed) grazing	☐	☐	☐
bb. Plan needed for nutrient management	☐	☐	☐
cc. Plan needed for crop pest/disease management	☐	☐	☐
dd. Plan needed for improved native plant communities/insects/savannah	☐	☐	☐
ee. Plan needed for transition to organic	☐	☐	☐