Organic 101
The basics behind the organic label

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Organic is unique. It is the most transparent, the most consumer-driven and the most heavily regulated food system.
Three-year transition

Third-party certification

On-site inspections

NOP Oversight & Enforcement
How were these tomatoes grown? Is it about the inputs used only? What about the soil & sustainability?
Organic Production Defined:

A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.
National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA)

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) – 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Ag

7 CFR 205
National Organic Program Regulations

The NOSB’s mission:

- To make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling
  - The National List
- Assist in the development of the standards
- Advise the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of OFPA
Ingredient List:
- Organic Peaches
- Ascorbic Acid
- Citric Acid
National List Trend: No Growth

Allowed synthetics since 2008: What is the trend?

No-Growth
with a strong preference for the use and development of nonsynthetic and organic alternatives.

6 synthetics have been added

52 have been removed, denied, or further restricted.

Examples of synthetics added include a sanitizer used in processing facilities that is allowed only for secondary and indirect food contact surface sanitizing, a cheese wax used for organic mushroom production, a mite control product for honeybees for organic honey production.

Removals: 10
Petitioned and denied: 41
Further restricted: 1

Organic Trade Association | www.OTA.com
How do the synthetic pest control products allowed in organic farming compare to the pesticides allowed in conventional farming?

25 synthetic active pest control products allowed in organic crop production

900+ synthetic active pesticide products registered for use in conventional farming by EPA*

The organic farmer must first use mechanical, cultural, biological and natural materials and move onto the toolbox only when and if they don’t work. In this way the toolbox is “restricted.”
How do the materials allowed in organic processed foods compare to the materials allowed in all other food?

79 non-agricultural minor ingredients allowed in organic processing

3000+ substances comprise Everything Added to Food in the United States (EAFUS).

Compared to the 79 non-agricultural minor ingredients allowed in organic processing, more than 3,000 total substances comprise an inventory often referred to as Everything Added to Food in the United States (EAFUS), and this is only a partial list of all food ingredients that may be lawfully added to conventional food.
Organic vs. Conventional – What’s the difference?
Ingredients: Organic pork, water, sea salt, organic honey, cultured celery powder, organic spices.
Transparency: A Traceable Supply Chain
Inspections occur from farm to shelf

Annual Inspections are required!

- Beginning Meeting
- Review Records
- Farm/Facility Tour to Verify OSP
- Exit Interview

Traceability Audit & Product in / Product out Balance
Is this a product certified to the organic regulations? How do I know?
What about pets? Can pet food be certified organic?
“Made with organic” products are USDA NOP certified!

Look for the certifier statement!
Non-GMO Verified? Does Non-GMO also mean organic?

Certified Organic By Quality Assurance International

USDA ORGANIC

NON GMO Project VERIFIED
nongmoproject.org

Certified ORGANIC
Organic is — and always has been — non-GMO plus so much more. But non-GMO is not always organic.
Requirements for “Organic (95% organic +)
Requirements for “Made with Organic (70%+)”

“Made With” Statement (Optional depending on organic statements)

Certifier Statement (required)

Certifier Logo (optional)

USDA Seal is NOT allowed!!!
Organic Certification Matters

Organic System Plan (OSP)
A management plan that describes practices. Developed by a producer or handler; agreed to by a certifier; and verified by an inspector

Record Keeping
- Documents activities and materials used as described in the OSP

On-Site Inspection (Annual and Unannounced)
- Inspector observes the operations fields and facilities and inspects records and OSP to verify compliance with the organic standards
- Soil and residue testing as needed or as required

Final Certification Decision
- Certifier final review of operation
- Approve; Approve Upon Resolution; or Deny
YOU:

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

Need to be in compliance with the Rule

shes
FINAL RULE
QUESTIONS?