



Transitioning to Organic Agriculture Funding Opportunity Fiscal Year 2016

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Maine

December 2015

Implementing an organic system requires a tactful approach to successfully carry out common agricultural activities, such as managing pests and building soil health.

Legislative Initiative

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) highlights the availability of technical and financial assistance to help producers of all commodities meet their conservation goals, including producers transitioning to organic farming and currently certified organic producers. It specifically includes help to agricultural producers transitioning to organic farming.

EQIP for Organic Transition

There is an initiative to assist producers transitioning to organic farming with development of a "Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition." Technical and financial assistance is being made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The assistance from NRCS through the EQIP Program helps producers plan and implement conservation practices to allow their organic operations to be environmentally sustainable.

What is a CPSOT

A Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (CPSOT) is a conservation activity plan (CAP) documenting decisions by producers who agree to implement a system of conservation practices which assist the producer to transition from conventional farming systems to an organic production system.

Developing a CPSOT

Conservation Plans Supporting Organic Transition will be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP), who is certified by NRCS and placed on an "approved list" to provide technical assistance to producers for specific conservation programs administered by USDA. Certified TSPs can be found at <http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>, or through your local NRCS office.

Financial Assistance

A conservation activity plan must be approved in a participant's contract as a financial assistance item in order for the participant to receive \$2,399 (*non-local \$3,745). Participants classified as Historically Underserved will receive \$2,879 (*non-local \$4,494). This financial assistance will help to offset the cost of the conservation planning portion of the Organic Systems Plan required for organic certification. Existing certified organic producers are not eligible.

*No TSP available within a 300-mile radius of the work location.

Application Deadline

Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis.

Need More Information? Contact:

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc Counties

254 Goddard Road
Lewiston, ME 04241
(207) 753-9400

Aroostook County:

Central Aroostook
735 Main Street, Suite #3
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-4153

Southern Aroostook
304 North Street
Houlton, ME 04730
(207) 532-2087

St. John Valley
139 Market Street, Suite
106 Fort Kent, ME 04743
(207) 834-3311

Cumberland and York Counties

306 U.S. Route 1, Suite A1
Scarborough, ME 04074
(207) 883-0159

Franklin County

107 Park Street Farmington,
ME 04938
(207) 778-4767

Hancock County

1423 Broadway, Suite #4
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 947-6622, ext. 5

Kennebec and Lincoln Counties

Central Maine Commerce Center
21 Enterprise Drive, Suite #1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-7847

Oxford County

17 Olson Road
So. Paris, ME 04281
(207) 743-5789

Penobscot County

1423 Broadway, Suite
#2 Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 947-6622, ext. 3

Piscataquis County

42 Engdahl Drive
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
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Somerset County

70 East Madison Road
Skowhegan, ME 04976
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Waldo and Knox Counties

46 Little River Drive
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(207) 338-1964

Washington County

8 M&M Place, Suite 5B
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