



HOW TO CHOOSE A CERTIFIER

Criteria for choosing a certifier:

1. **Do they certify in your state?** Use the Organic Integrity Database Certifier Locator to see locations where each certification agency certifies. Choosing a certifier that serves other operations nearby can help to reduce certification fees.
2. **Do they certify your scopes?** Scopes include **Crop, Livestock, Wild Crop, and Processing / Handling**. Not all certification agencies are accredited to certify all scopes, use the Organic Integrity Database Certifier Locator to view accredited scopes by certifier.
3. **What is the certifiers fee schedule?** Fees vary by certifier, go to the certifier's website, or contact them directly to learn about their fees. All certifiers must make their fee schedule available to the public.
4. **Do they offer additional services?** If you need additional certifications or want to use educational services, research the certifier to see what they offer. Many certifiers offer a transitional certificate, international programs, and educational services to help you through the certification process.
5. **Talk to certified organic farmers in your area:**
 - Are you happy with the service you received?
 - Does someone answer the phone or return calls promptly?
 - Does the agency help you with the certification process?
 - Does it provide useful recordkeeping forms for farmers to use?
 - Does it have a newsletter about new production methods
 - or changes in the marketplace or government regulations?
 - Does the agency offer educational activities or field days?
 - Are policies and materials easy to understand and use?



- How long did you wait for the inspection to occur, the file to be reviewed, and the certificate to be issued?




6. Talk to your buyers:




- Check with your buyers to see if they have preferred certification agencies. If a buyer wants your organic product to be approved for sale to foreign countries, there may be special inspection or production requirements.

Listed here are the most common certifiers in the state of Kentucky. All certifiers who service Kentucky may not be listed here. Access the Organic Integrity Database to find all certifiers that certify in the state: [Organic Integrity Database Certifier Locator](#)

OAK does not endorse or favor any particular certifier over another; the information provided in this document is solely intended for educational purposes.

Certifier Name	Services Offered	Contact information
Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA)  KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	<p>The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program as a Certifying Agent for the scopes of Crops, Wild Crops, Livestock, and Handling Operations.</p> <p>KDA currently certifies only entities located within the state of Kentucky.</p>	Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KDA Organic Program
Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)  PCO CERTIFIED ORGANIC	<p>PCO is a USDA-accredited organic certifying agency that educates and certifies growers, processors and handlers of organic crops, wild crops, livestock and livestock products in the contiguous United States. PCO is also proud to be an accredited certifying agent for OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Certification, which is a separate program that builds upon the organic standards.</p>	Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCO

<p>Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA)</p> 	<p>Formed in 1979, the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) cultivates a future in which sustainable and organic farmers thrive, local food nourishes our communities, and agricultural practices protect and enhance our environment. OEFFA has operated an organic certification program since 1981. While the standards and the process have evolved since then, what hasn't changed is OEFFA's commitment to uphold the integrity of organics and provide farmers and handler/processors a pathway for profitability. We proudly offer accredited USDA National Organic Program certification.</p>	<p>Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OEFFA,
<p>Midwest Organic Service Association Inc (MOSA)</p> 	<p>The rapidly growing organic market is a great opportunity for farmers, food processors, handlers, restaurants, and food retailers. Consumers are demanding, and are willing to pay a premium for, food and fiber produced in accordance with the USDA National Organic Standards. To access this market, you will need a knowledgeable and professional certification partner. As a USDA accredited certification agency with over 20 years of experience, MOSA is ready to serve your needs. MOSA provides USDA NOP accredited organic certification services for farms, processors, handlers, restaurants and retailers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOSA
<p>Oregon Tilth Certified Organic</p> 	<p>We got started in 1974, planning and failing and learning how to create our own organic standards from the ground up. Years later, our founders slept on hotel room floors in Washington, D.C. with other organic pioneers to help create the national organic label we see in households today. We're a diverse team of industry experts working together to make our food and agriculture system socially equitable and biologically sound. Oregon Tilth is accredited by multiple accreditation bodies and recognized by government authorities to lend credibility and confidence in our abilities to provide prestigious services to a variety of organic certification programs.</p>	<p>Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilth

OneCert 	<p>OneCert's family of companies work closely together to provide multiple certification options. OneCert, Inc. was founded in 2003 by Sam Welsch to provide certification to the US NOP, EU, JAS, and the GOTS and TE textile programs. We are known for our dedication to the integrity of the organic label.</p> <p>Producer/Handler Certification National Standards: United States, Japan, India, European Union Equivalency Programs: Canada, European Union, Japan, Korea, Taiwan</p>	Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OneCert
CCOF Certification Services, LLC 	<p>Organic Certification International Programs Certified Transitional Program Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program OCal Cannabis Certification Regenerative Organic Certified Food Safety Services GLOBAL G.A.P. and PrimusGFS v3.2</p>	Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCOF
Ecocert SAS (formerly Ecocert SA) 	<p>Ecocert provides certification for 150+ standards in the food, farming, forestry, textiles, cosmetics and eco-products sectors worldwide. These highly respected and well recognized certifications result in better practices and marketplace recognition.</p>	Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EcoCert

Certifier Comparison Sheet

This sheet is for the purpose of example comparison only. The information was recorded and updated during the 2024/2025 years and may not be current with the changes of rates made by the certifiers listed. Please contact the certifying agency directly for the most up to date information available.

Certifier: Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/organic-marketing.html>

Certification Fee: One Scope: \$500

Two Scopes: \$750

Three Scopes: \$1,000

Four Scopes: \$1,250

Inspection Fee: \$0

Additional Fees: Late Application Fee: \$50
Inspection Cancellation Fee: \$200
Export Documentation Fee: \$50
Label Review: First five are free; \$150 per label
Product Review: \$10 per product
Renewal Handlers and Processor Fee: \$200 per each \$100,000 increment of gross sales

exceeding \$100,000

Recertification Fee: Same as the application fees

Additional Info: Fee Schedule Link: https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/documents/ORG_Fee%20Schedule.pdf

Certifier: Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Website: <https://grow.oeffa.org/>

Certification Fee: Early Bird - March 15: \$1450, April 15: \$1500, May 15: \$1650, June 15: \$1800

Inspection Fee: No additional fees unless inspection goes over 5 hours.

Additional Fees: \$400 for livestock; \$25 Administrative Fee with first application. Handling and Processing Fee

Recertification Fee:

Additional Information:

Fee Schedule: <https://certification.oeffa.org/fees-and-deadlines/>

Fee Calculator:

2022 Organic Gross Sales	Application Fee
\$ 50,000	\$ 575
\$ 50,000 – 249,999	\$ 1,150
\$ 250,000 – 499,999	\$ 2,300
\$ 500,000 – 699,999	\$ 3,500
\$ 700,000 – 899,999	\$ 4,500
\$ 900,000 – 2,499,999	\$ 5,750
\$ 2,500,000 – 4,999,999	\$ 7,250
\$ 5,000,000 – 9,999,999	\$ 8,500
> \$ 10,000,000	\$ 11,500

file:///C:/Users/hallo/Downloads/https___certification.oeffa.org_wp-content_uploads_2023_01_Fee-Sheet-for-Producers-2023-New-Applicants-Draft%20(1).pdf

Certifier: Pennsylvania Certified Organic

Website: <https://paorganic.org/>

Certification Fee: Basic Fee: New Applicant \$935. Renewal \$835. Livestock \$250. Processor \$350.

Tier	Gross Organic Sales	Fee	Tier	Gross Organic Sales	Fee
1	\$0 - \$5,000	\$0	14	\$750,001 - \$1,000,000	\$3,300
2	\$5,001 - \$25,000	\$70	15	\$1,000,001 - \$1,500,000	\$4,650
3	\$25,001 - \$40,000	\$210	16	\$1,500,001 - \$2,500,000	\$6,000
4	\$40,001 - \$55,000	\$300	17	\$2,500,001 - \$3,500,000	\$8,500
5	\$55,001 - \$75,000	\$390	18	\$3,500,001 - \$5,000,000	\$9,000
6	\$75,001 - \$100,000	\$540	19	\$5,000,001 - \$7,500,000	\$11,070
7	\$100,001 - \$130,000	\$660	20	\$7,500,001 - \$10,000,000	\$13,200
8	\$130,001 - \$165,000	\$750	21	\$10,000,001 - \$15,000,000	\$16,730
9	\$165,001 - \$210,000	\$830	22	\$15,000,001 - \$20,000,000	\$22,000
10	\$210,001 - \$275,000	\$1,075	23	\$20,000,001 - \$30,000,000	\$25,000
11	\$275,001 - \$400,000	\$1,400	24	\$30,000,001 - \$50,000,000	\$32,000
12	\$400,001 - \$500,000	\$1,740	25	\$50,000,001 - \$100,000,000	\$40,000
13	\$500,001 - \$750,000	\$2,420	26	\$100,000,001 and up	\$45,000

Inspection Fee: Inspector Rate (pre-inspection, inspection, post inspection) \$80/HR. Inspector Travel Rate \$40/HR

Inspection Based on Type of Scope(s)	Average Inspection Range
Producer - Single Scope	\$425 - \$800
Producer - Multiple Scopes	\$500 - \$925
Processor/Handler - Single Scope	\$550 - \$1,300
Processor/Handler - Multiple Scopes	\$675 - \$1,500

Additional Fees: Material Review Fee \$100-\$250. Inspection cancellation fees vary. Expedition Fee \$3000+. Late Paperwork \$150/Month.

Recertification Fee: Same as above. Reinstatement Fee for non compliance \$500.

Certifier: Midwest Organic Service Association Inc (MOSA)

Website: <https://mosaorganic.org/>

For first-time Producer (farmer) applicants, the cost is:

\$1,375 (Crops Only)

\$1,525 (Crops & Livestock).

New Processing and Non-Processing Handlers and Producer-Handler (Crops) pay \$1,600.

Producer-Handler (Crops & Livestock) pay \$1,650.

The final actual cost may vary depending on the final cost of the on-site inspection.

In subsequent years, the certification fee is based on the previous year's gross organic sales, so that the cost of certification is tied to the sales benefit it provides to the operation.

Please see [MOSA's website certification page and look at the downloadable Fee Schedules](#) for your type of operation, and contact MOSA with any questions.

Certifier: Oregon Tilth Certified Organic

Website: <https://tilth.org/>

Certification Fee: Base Certification Fee \$325

Inspection Fee:

Crop \$400-\$700.

Livestock \$500-\$800+ (This is a rough estimate)

Additional Fees:

New Applicant Fee \$300.

Livestock Fee \$250.

Expedited Service Fee \$3000.

Recertification Fee: Same as certification fee.

Additional Information:

Certifier: Georgia Crop Improvement Association

Website: <https://www.georgiacrop.com/organic/>

Certification Fee: \$875-\$975 +\$100 Surcharge

Inspection Fee: \$50/hour plus IRS standard mileage

Additional Fees: \$7/additional acre over 20 acres

Assessment fee from gross sales: \$300.00 - \$20,000.00

Recertification Fee: Same as certification

Additional Information:

<http://www.georgiacrop.com/fullpanel/uploads/files/gciaocp-organic-fee-schedule-revised-11-30-2023.pdf>

Certifier: CCOF Certification Services, LLC

Website: <https://www.ccof.org/>

Small farms and processors are routinely certified for between \$600 and \$1,800.

Please contact us for an individual estimate.

Additional detailed information can be found in our certification fees and renewal information.

Your total cost of certification in the first year will come from three main fees:

Application Fee: A one time \$350 fee, paid when you apply.

Annual Inspection Fee: Inspection costs vary annually because they are billed hourly and include travel costs.

An inspection cost estimate is included in all first-year fee estimates, which you will receive when your application is accepted. See the CCOF Certification Services Program Manual for current hourly inspection fees.

Annual Certification Fee: This fee is based on the Organic Production Value (OPV) of your CCOF certified operation.

Review the table below to determine your annual fee. Farm and livestock operations should deduct the cost of certified organic seed and/or feed from organic sales to arrive at their fee category.

Processors and handlers should deduct the cost of certified organic ingredients and/or products from organic sales to arrive at their fee category. This ensures that you only pay for the cost of certifying your value-added process, not the value of the ingredients for which certification has already been paid.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION FEE SCHEDULE

Fee Category	Organic Production Value (OPV)		Fee	
	At Least	Not More Than	Crop/Livestock	Handler/Processor
1	\$0	\$10,000	\$275	\$825
2	10,001	20,000	363	825
3	20,001	50,000	462*	825
4	50,001	100,000	605**	825
5	100,001	200,000	781	924
6	200,001	300,000	1,023	
7	300,001	400,000	1,331	
8	400,001	500,000	1,727	
9	500,001	600,000	2,244***	
10	600,001	700,000	2,915	
11	700,001	1,000,000	3,498	
12	1,000,001	1,500,000	4,126	
13	1,500,001	2,000,000	4,946	
14	2,000,001	2,500,000	5,940	
15	2,500,001	3,000,000	7,128	
16	3,000,001	3,500,000	8,554	
17	3,500,001	4,000,000	10,260	
18	4,000,001	5,500,000	12,312	
19	5,500,001	10,000,000	14,501****	
20	Greater than 10,000,000		Contact us for a quote	
*Minimum fee for mixed organic and non-organic (all types, all crops).				
**Minimum fee for livestock operations with greater than 10 mammals or 200 poultry.				
***Minimum fee for clients certified to Canadian Organic Regime (COR) Compliance Program				
****Maximum fee for broker/trader/wholesaler/distributor clients with fewer than 5 facilities who do not repack or repack fewer than 20 items				

Certifier: Ecocert SAS (formerly Ecocert SA)

Website: <https://www.ecocert.com/en-US/home>

Certification Fee: \$925 + \$525/additional scope

Inspection Fee: \$98/hour, minimum \$500

Additional Fees: Acreage Fees, Inspection Deposit Fees, Livestock fees, Processing and Handling Fees, Labels, Late Renewal

Crops/Wild Crops	
Acres	Acreage Fee
0 to 100	\$0
101 to 250	\$50
251 to 500	\$150
501 to 800	\$200
801 to 1,250	\$435
1,251 to 2,500	\$700
2,501 to 3,500	\$1,025
3,501 to 5,000	\$1,300
5,001 to 7,500	\$1,575
7,501 to 10,000	\$1,900
10,001 +	\$1,900 + \$0.19/acre over 10,000

Recertification Fee:

Additional Information: Link: https://www.ecocert.com/en-US/quote?certif_id=8398BC52-7246-4CF5-BB9C-7E1251771787

Certifier: OneCert, Inc.

Website: <https://onecert.com/>

Certification Fee: \$1350-\$6250

Producers		
Organic Sales Bracket**		Fee
At least	Up to	
\$0	\$50,000	\$1350
\$50,001	\$100,000	\$1600
\$100,001	\$150,000	\$1850
\$150,001	\$200,000	\$2100
\$200,001	\$250,000	\$2400
\$250,001	\$300,000	\$2700
\$300,001	\$400,000	\$3200
\$400,001	\$500,000	\$3750
\$500,001	\$700,000	\$4550
\$700,001	\$900,000	\$5400
\$900,001+	No limit	\$6250

Inspection Fee:

Additional Fees: \$1,000 additional for livestock. \$350 late renewal. \$100 per complex input review. Minimum of \$750 for inspection scheduling. Additional \$100 per hour for complex inspections.

Recertification Fee: Same as certification

Additional Information: Possible unannounced inspections are 50% of a regular inspection fee and can be refunded if the inspection is completed with no non compliances.

Additional Information:

Certifier: Quality Assurance International

Website: <https://www.qai-inc.com/>

Certification Fee: This certifier only releases a fee schedule with an individual quote. I did a quote for a 98 acre farm in the middle of Kentucky that is seeking crop certification. They quoted my certification fee as \$2,588 and my inspection fee as \$1,533. No further information was attained.

Inspection Fee:

Additional Fees:

Recertification Fee:

Additional Information:

Certifier: Quality Certification Services

Website: <https://qcsinfo.org/>

Certification Fee: Starts at \$750

Annual Gross Sales*	Annual Certification Fee
< \$25,000	\$750
\$25,001-\$50,000	\$875
\$50,001-\$100,000	\$1,075
\$100,001-&175,000	\$1,275
\$175,001-\$250,000	\$1,475
\$250,001-\$350,000	\$1,700
\$350,001- \$450,000	\$1,950
\$450,001-\$550,000	\$2,200
\$550,001-\$650,000	\$2,475
\$650,001-\$800,000	\$2,825
\$800,001-\$1,000,000	\$3,225
\$1,000,001-\$1,500,000	\$3,975
\$1,500,001-\$2,000,000	\$4,775
\$2,000,001-\$2,500,000	\$5,625
\$2,500,001-\$3,000,000	\$6,525
\$3,000,001-3,500,000	\$7,475
\$3,500,001-\$4,000,000	\$8,500
\$4,000,001-\$4,500,000	\$9,600
\$4,500,001-\$5,500,000	\$10,775
> \$5,500,001	\$12,025

Inspection Fee: \$485-\$1195

Operation Type	Operation Complexity			
	Simple	Moderate	Complex	Very Complex
Grower Only	485-735	735-970	970-1100	Varies based on site specific requirements (please contact the QCS office).
Grower and Handler	540-855	855-1140	1140-1450	
Grower and Livestock	655-825	825-1025	1025-1195	
Grower, Handler and Livestock	680-855	855-1140	1140-1450	
Livestock Only	540-825	825-1025	1025-1195	

Additional Fees:\$250 for adding Livestock. Dairy \$1650. Input Review \$70. Renewal Late Fee \$100.

Recertification Fee: Same as Certification

Additional Information:

Certifier: Where Food Comes From Organic (formerly A Bee Organic)

Website: <https://www.wfcfororganic.com/>

Certification Fee: Annual engagement fee \$300

ANNUAL RENEWAL CERTIFICATION FEES (to maintain certification)

PRODUCERS: CROP/LIVESTOCK/APIARY	< \$250 K in annual revenue	\$1,100
	< \$1 M in annual revenue	\$1,500
	< \$5 M in annual revenue	\$2,500
	> \$5 M in annual revenue	\$4,000
HANDLERS	< \$1 M annual revenue	\$2,500
	< \$10 M annual revenue	\$5,500
	< \$25 M annual revenue	\$12,000
	> \$25 M annual revenue	\$19,000
	> \$75 M annual revenue	\$35,000

ADDITIONAL SCOPE: PRODUCER/HANDLER/LIVESTOCK	\$1,000
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Inspection Fee: Cost varies by location.

Additional Fees: Label Review \$50. Input Review \$100-200

Recertification Fee:

Additional Information:

Certifier: OnMark Certification Services

Website: <https://www.onmarkcertification.com/>

Certification Fee:

Inspection Fee:

Additional Fees:

Recertification Fee:

Additional Information: