



USDA ORGANIC: WHAT'S BEHIND THE SEAL



The USDA Organic Seal is the only claim in the marketplace that is backed and protected by **federal law**. It represents a unique public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), organic stakeholders, and third-party USDA-accredited certifiers.

Why Choose USDA Organic?

- ✓ **Protected by Law:** The organic seal is enforced by the Organic Foods Production Act, ensuring integrity from farm to market.
- ✓ **Rigorous Standards:** Producers, handlers, and processors must follow strict regulations and pass regular inspections before using the USDA Organic Seal.
- ✓ **Public Participation:** Organic regulations are shaped by public input, making them one of the most transparent food systems in the world.
- ✓ **Full Traceability:** Products are traceable from field to table through detailed recordkeeping requirements.

THE ORGANIC ADVANTAGE

Ensures Consumer Trust

Every product carrying the USDA Organic Seal must be free from synthetic colors, growth hormones, synthetic fertilizers, chemical preservatives, synthetic flavors, and pesticides harmful to the environment.

Supports Fair and Transparent Rulemaking

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) holds public meetings to gather input from farmers, businesses, scientists, and consumers. This process keeps organic standards strong and responsive to community needs.



Strengthens Food System Accountability

Organic certification includes audits of production, handling, and processing, ensuring every step meets the law's requirements.

Builds Global Confidence

USDA Organic certification is recognized around the world, opening opportunities for trade and ensuring imported organic products meet the same standards as domestic ones.



ORGANIC REGULATION AT A GLANCE

100%

COMPLIANCE REQUIRED

All ingredients and processes must meet USDA organic standards to carry the seal.

PROHIBITS TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Including harmful pesticides and fertilizers.

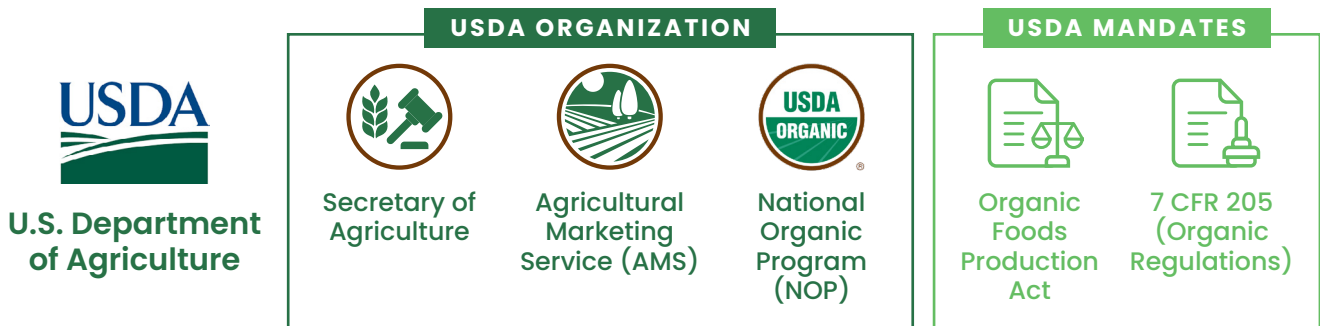
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

All certified farms and processors are inspected at least once per year by accredited certifiers.



TIP: When shopping, **look for the USDA Organic Seal** on food, beverages, textiles, and personal care items to ensure you're getting products that meet the highest standards for health, transparency, and sustainability.

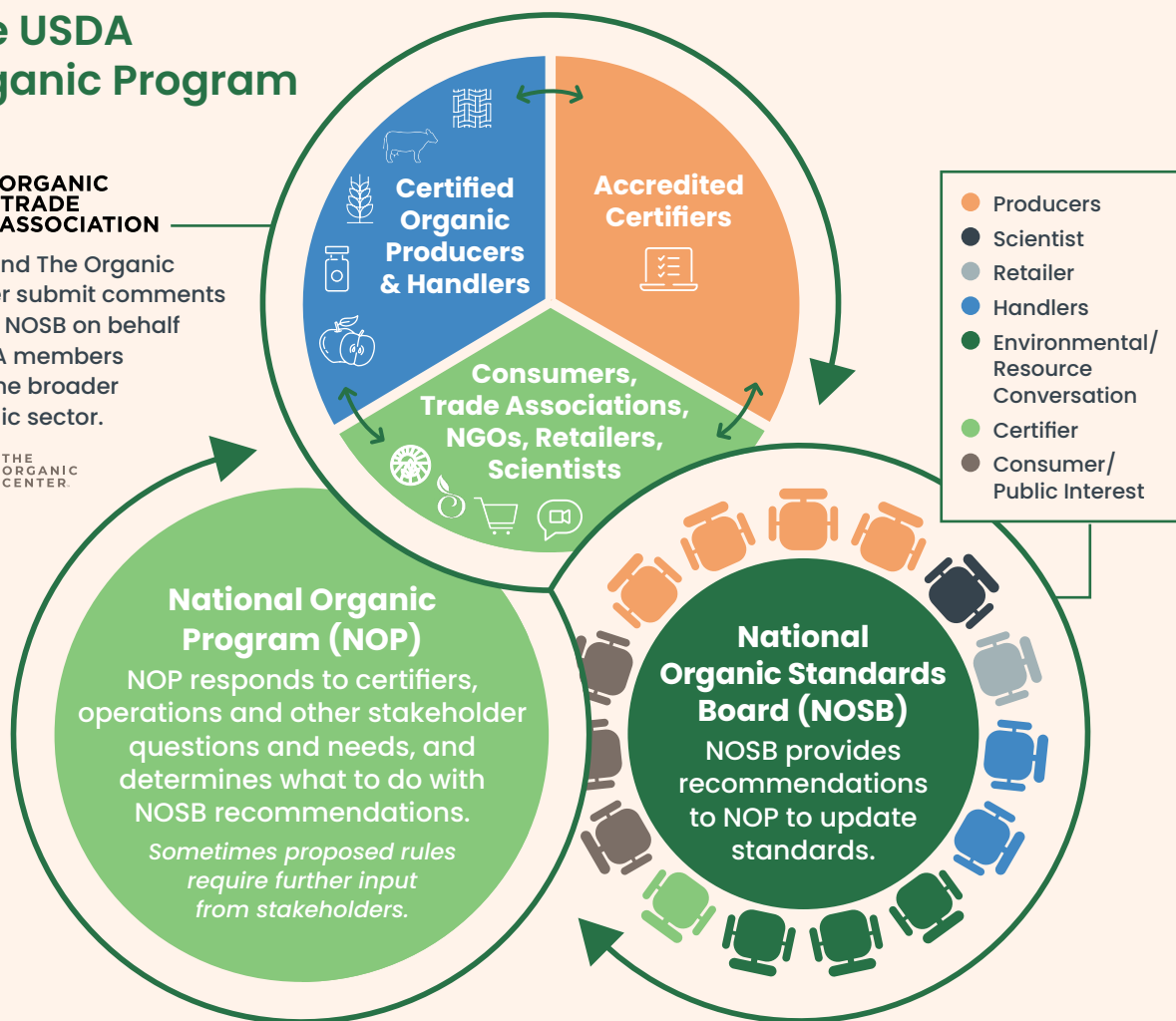
ORGANIC INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE



The USDA Organic Program



OTA and The Organic Center submit comments to the NOSB on behalf of OTA members and the broader organic sector.



The USDA organic program is a public-private partnership.



The Organic Foods Production Act passed in 1990.



USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) establishes and enforces organic standards, oversees certifiers and supports transitioning and current organic producers and handlers.