

North Dakota Organic Education and Transition Cost Share Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to be working with a certifier?

Yes, and you also have to had one on farm inspection by that certifier.

2. Do I have to transition all the land on my farm in order to qualify?

No, the only requirement is that this is your first time transitioning land to certified organic production. If you were a certified organic farmer and lost, or chose to let your certification expire you do not qualify for this program if you are transitioning back.

3. What costs are allowed?

- Application fees
- Inspection fees
- Soil tests
- Approved educational expenses

4. What costs are not allowed?

- Inspections due to violations of USDA Organic regulations
- Charges related to non-USDA organic certifications
- Other labeling programs
- Materials, supplies and equipment
- Late fees
- Membership fees
- Consultant fees

5. Do I qualify if I own land in another state?

Yes; however, the land you are transitioning has to be located in North Dakota and you must be a North Dakota resident.

6 Can I apply more than once?

Yes, a farm can apply for up to three years or until you are certified through the certifier, whichever comes first.

(Over)



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7. Why is the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) doing this?

The North Dakota Organic Advisory Board wants to see more farmers succeed in transitioning to certified organic production. A big part of this is education and starting to work with a certifier. The board and the NDDA agree that this program helps future producers with the extra costs they would have during those transition years.

8. How do I get reimbursed?

If you are selected, you will be awarded a grant through the NDDA to cover 75% of certain transition costs up to \$750, plus \$250 to be used for approved educational expenses. Before you are reimbursed for any expenses you will need to send in paid invoices/receipts showing you have incurred these costs. Once those costs are approved you will be issued a check.

9. Is there a deadline to apply?

No, although the program runs on the state fiscal year July 1 – June 30. The program has a limited budget and approval is on a first come first serve basis. Once the money is gone, we will no longer accept applications.

10. Will I need to re-apply each year?

Yes. If you are in transition and qualify for the program one year, you are not automatically re-enrolled. Interested farmers will need to apply every year starting July 1. Once the funds are expended we will not be accepting applications, the NDDA will not create a waiting list for the next year.



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