



Get to Know CCOF

# THE STAMP OF ORGANIC INTEGRITY

## A Premier Certification Agency

For over 40 years, CCOF has provided organic certification and trade representation to the full breadth of the food supply chain, including small and large operations. From field to fork, we certify organic growers, livestock producers, ingredient suppliers, handlers, packaging companies, warehousing and storage facilities, brokers, wholesalers, private labelers, retailers, and restaurants. Our members include more than 3,000 organic operations supplying 1,100 different organic crops, products, and services.

CCOF Certification Services is accredited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program and is widely recognized for its expertise and highly trained staff. CCOF upholds organic standards, provides superior customer service, and, above all, maintains its commitment to organic integrity. The CCOF seal is one of the most recognized and trusted seals in the organic market.

## Trade Association Benefits

CCOF is the only full-service organic certification agency that also serves as a trade association. The CCOF Trade Association offers numerous educational and promotional opportunities as well as advocates for strong organic standards and industry growth. Thus, CCOF-certified operations not only benefit from top quality certification services, but are also represented by an industry leader that educates, advocates, and promotes on their behalf.

## Education

Our educational events keep our members and the organic community up-to-date on market and trade developments, trends, hot topics, and best practices. Webinars, events, field days, and workshops assist our members, and others, in marketing their products and meeting organic standards. We also organize and participate in events designed to increase public awareness of, and demand for, certified organic products.

The CCOF website, [www.ccof.org](http://www.ccof.org), provides information on organic production and benefits, steps to become certified organic, a dynamic blog, policy and advocacy initiatives, classifieds, and upcoming events.



Your partner in the organic movement.

Our mission is to advance organic agriculture for a healthy world.

Our quarterly magazine, *Certified Organic*, features stories about our members and important organic certification and industry news. Our goal is to grow the organic marketplace and our members' businesses by helping consumers understand the benefits of buying organic while providing tools for our members.

## Advocacy

CCOF advocates for strong organic standards and champions the growth of the organic food and agricultural industry. As a grassroots organization with over 3,000 certified organic members, CCOF has a strong voice in local, state, national, and international policy. For example, CCOF submits comments to federal agencies regarding the risks of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). CCOF also works with federal officials to ensure legitimate food safety standards for the organic industry. And CCOF campaigns for more resources to be dedicated to organic research and development. In all of its advocacy endeavors, CCOF is proud to be the voice of organic as it spreads the word on the many social, economic, and environmental benefits of organic food and agriculture.



Learn more about how CCOF is leading the organic movement »

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CCOF is the largest and one of the oldest and most-respected certifiers in North America with more than 40 years of organic certification, education, advocacy, and promotion experience.

### Promotion

We work tirelessly to promote our members. By participating in trade shows, we distribute *Certified Organic* magazine to those looking to learn about CCOF members and organic food, and speak with others about our clients and their products.

At [www.ccof.org/directory](http://www.ccof.org/directory) we maintain a valuable online directory of our certified members for those looking to source certified organic products.

CCOF represents hundreds of supporting members - individuals and businesses that share our commitment to protecting and expanding the organic marketplace - whose financial assistance helps us achieve our mission. We inform our members of promotional opportunities and events to help them spread the word about their businesses. Additionally, members are offered complimentary event and classified ad listings to manage and promote the activities of their operations.

### The CCOF Foundation

The CCOF Foundation is changing the way the world eats by supporting organic farmers and businesses and helping people understand organic and why it is the best choice. We are transforming the face of U.S. agriculture by investing in a new generation of farmers and agricultural professionals through the Future Organic Farmer Grant Fund. We are also shifting the way shoppers make their purchasing choices by educating consumers on what organic is and how to look for it in the marketplace. The Foundation also supports organic farmers by providing no- or low-cost training resources through our Organic Training Institute and through hardship assistance grants distributed annually. Want to help cultivate change? Tax-deductible donations can be made to the CCOF Foundation on our website at [www.ccof.org/foundation](http://www.ccof.org/foundation).

### Help Organic Grow!

Join our organic community! Become a supporting member, join the trade association, or donate to continue our education and advocacy efforts. Learn more by visiting [www.ccof.org](http://www.ccof.org).



## OUR ORGANIC PRINCIPLES

Organic standards promote and enhance biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil fertility while restoring, maintaining, and enhancing ecological harmony. The legacy of organic will be in catalyzing healthy, sustainable, and humane production systems. We envision a world where organic is the norm.

CCOF believes that organic standards should continually evolve to address a broadening range of issues, including:

### » Animal Welfare

CCOF believes that organic livestock standards should require humane and ethical treatment of animals during all stages of production, including transport and slaughter.

### » Carbon Sequestration

CCOF believes that organic practices offer verifiable opportunities for sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gases, and should be encouraged as an effective strategy for reducing dangerous levels of emissions.

### » Ecosystem Protection

CCOF believes that organic standards should encourage stewardship of land and waterways, as well as protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

### » Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

CCOF believes that genetic modification is fundamentally incompatible with organic production. The organic market and its producers must be protected from GMO contamination. GMO products must be labeled as such.

### » Processing Standards

CCOF believes that organic standards should require processors to minimize environmental impacts by conserving water and energy; preventing contamination of water, air, and soil; and promoting the reduction, reuse, and recycling of packaging.

### » Social Justice

CCOF believes that the organic market should provide adequate and equitable compensation and treatment to farmers, ranchers, laborers, and other participants in organic production and processing. All individuals should be treated with dignity and respect.