

Suggested Neighbor Notification and Drift Prevention Letter

CCOF recommends that growers inform neighbors of the organic status of their parcels.

This is a sample text for growers to use or not use as you see fit. Revise this letter to suit your needs and your relationship with your neighbor/s. See the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations regarding border and buffer requirements.

Date:

Dear Neighbor:

I am (growing, producing, processing, etc.) (crops, livestock, food products, etc.) using organic methods. I will need your help and cooperation if I am to be successful. In order to sell my (crop, product, animals, etc.) I must follow the regulations laid out in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP). I am a member of CCOF who is an NOP accredited certification agency. I undergo yearly inspections with CCOF in order to remain "Certified Organic" and sell my products as such.

I am practicing organic methods at the following locations: (INSERT LOCATIONS).

Since you are an adjoining property owner I want to inform you of my plans and ask for your help. I ask that you make a good-faith effort to minimize the movement of any fertilizers and pesticides prohibited for organic production under the USDA NOP regulations. If you plan to use synthetic fertilizers or pesticides on your adjoining land, please take precautions to prevent over spray, drift, or runoff onto my property or facility. If any chemical drift is found in excess of 5% of EPA tolerance on my crops as a result of spray drift, it could cause me the loss of organic status and my CCOF certification. Such contamination could cause me great financial hardship.

If you would like to know more about my organic certification please feel free to call me or CCOF. If I can be of any service to you as you plan your work I would be happy to help. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your help and consideration.

Sincerely,