

Application Due Dates for Organic Certification

NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC

Application submittal for New Certification:

Please allow yourself plenty of time to review organic standards and to complete the application detailing your Organic System Plan.

Maple Applications are recommended for submittal **by the first business day in February**. This will allow sufficient time to complete our initial review, perform the inspection during tapping, and make a final certification decision in time for your maple market season.

All other new applications (crop, livestock, handling/processing) are recommended for submittal by the **first business day in May**. This will allow sufficient time to complete the certification process before your harvest/production begins and before the USDA Cost Share Reimbursement deadline.

Any application received after July 1 may become ineligible for reimbursement of first year certification fees under the USDA Cost Share Program which requires organic certification by September 30.

Please Note: In the first year of certification, early crops such as 1st cutting hay, asparagus and strawberries may not be certified in time to market as organic. In succeeding years there is no lapse in certification (providing Annual Information Update occurs).

No crops or products may be represented as certified organic until certification has been issued.

Application submittal for Continued Certification:

Maple Applications are to be submitted electronically or postmarked by **January 15**.

All other applications are to be submitted electronically or postmarked by the **last business day in February**.

Early Bird Discount

May apply for complete applications submitted with full payment at a rate of \$50 off if submitted 4 weeks prior to due date or \$25 off if submitted 2 weeks prior to due date.

Incomplete applications and/or partially paid certification fees do not qualify for Early Bird Discounts.

Late Application Fee

Any renewal application submitted electronically or postmarked after above submittal date will incur a late fee of \$150.

Late Payment Fee

Payment fees postmarked/submitted electronically after due date will incur a late fee of \$30.

Incomplete Application Fee

A \$35.00 fee will be assessed each time an incomplete application is returned to the producer.