

ORGANIC PRODUCER ENDORSEMENT

I, the undersigned, affirm the following:

- I am over the age of eighteen (18).
- That all land used by me for organic crop production has had no prohibited substances (as defined by the National Organic Program) applied to it for at least 3 years prior to harvest. Prohibited substances include sewage sludge, non-compliant herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.
- That all agricultural products, including livestock, processed and handled products, for which organic certification is requested, have been produced according the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Standards.
- That the information provided in the organic system plan (application and associated forms) is complete and accurate and understand that MOFGA Certification Services LLC (MCS) relies upon this information for its organic certification process. **Willfully providing false information may result in the denial of certification and may be subject to legal action and penalties under state and federal law.** If any of this information changes, I (we) will notify MCS of these changes promptly.
- I understand that my operation may be subject to unannounced inspection and/or sampling at any time as deemed appropriate to ensure compliance with the NOP regulations.
- I agree to give MCS access to all facilities and records that provide information about the operation and its compliance with the organic rule.
- I have read the National Organic Rule and MCS policy and guidance documents and understand them.
- If certified, I agree to represent such agricultural and processed products as MOFGA Certified Organic only if I have abided by the current organic standards and continue to do so.
- I understand that MCS must keep my certification files for 10 years and that they are subject to USDA NOP audits.
- I permit MCS to provide marketing information, as indicated by me on the certification forms, to interested buyers or other parties.
- I will maintain all records applicable to the organic operation for no less than five (5) years beyond their creation. This includes keeping a copy of my annual certification paperwork.
- If I was not in control of land during the prior 36 months and I use this land in my organic farm plan, I understand that the person who was previously in control must sign a verification. This document as well as a field history and map must be submitted before this land can be evaluated for certification.
- I will not misuse the MOFGA Certified Organic or USDA Organic logo.
- I am an appointed representative of the operation and I can make decisions involving this organic system plan. I am an official contact for this operation.
- I understand that acceptance of organic system plan paperwork does not constitute certification. Certification is granted through the issuance by MCS of an organic certificate and an annual product verification document. I understand that the organic certificate is good until surrendered, suspended or revoked.
- I will abide by the MCS *Code of Conduct* when engaging with staff and inspectors, and understand that violations can be grounds for noncompliance and adverse action activity.
- **In accordance with the requirements of the USDA-NOP standards, which protect my confidential records from unauthorized release, I give MCS permission to share, as needed, information in my records with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Agricultural Services department necessary to assist in certification compliance.**

(1) _____ Date _____

Print Name Here: _____

(2) _____ Date _____

Print Name Here: _____

This document must be signed in order for MCS to proceed with the certification process.

If two individuals are listed in Question 1 of the Certification Application, then both individuals must sign the Organic Producer Endorsement. The names that are to appear on the Organic Certificate must match the signatures on this Endorsement