

TITLE: **2004 AMA Sustainable Organic and Truck Crop Farming**

Purpose: Provide financial and technical assistance to reduce risk with transition to organic farming; maintaining an organic farming system or reduce the producers dependency on purchased inputs for conventional farming systems.

Background: There are small (20ac. or less) farming operations in West Virginia that are converting or have converted their production of vegetables, berries, and fruits to organic or low input systems. These farmers fluctuate between organic and conventional farming due to delays of response to changes in soil and crop management, influences of prices, changes in production due to transition to organic, availability of time, response of crops and soils, lack of educational information, crop pests, and farm infrastructure to support low input systems. Lack of price supports and traditional farm programs increases their risk of failure.

Proposal: NRCS will provide financial assistance to existing commercial, organic and conventional truck crop farming fields. Assistance will be provided to improve soil health, implement use of organic soil amendments, develop sources of water for irrigation, develop irrigation systems, control soil erosion, manage surface water runoff, implement buffers, limit wildlife damage by constructing deer fence, construct composting facilities, prepare seed beds and implement weed control, using cover crops and mulching. See the attached list for a complete listing of eligible conservation practices. Maximum contract acreage is 20 acres.

Technical Contact: NRCS

Organic Farming Program References:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/StatePrograms/CostShareQ&A.html>

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/CertifyingAgents/Accredited.html>

Practice code	Practice Name
317	Composting Facility
332	Contour Buffer Strips
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
362	Diversion
382	Fence (for Deer Control – 2500 ft maximum per contract) <u>1/</u>
386	Field Border
393A	Filter Strip
412	Grassed Waterway
430 DD	Irrigation Pipeline, high pressure <u>1/</u>
430 EE	Irrigation Pipeline, low pressure <u>1/</u>
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation <u>1/</u>
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler <u>1/</u>
449	Irrigation Water Management <u>1/</u>
484	Mulching
590	Nutrient Management (USDA Certified Organic / Transition Only <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>)
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting
378	Pond
533	Pumping Plant for Water Control
344	Residue Management, Seasonal
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
574	Spring Development
585	Stripcropping, Contour
606	Subsurface Drain
607	Surface Drainage, Field Ditch
608	Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral
642	Well

^{1/} **Irrigation water supply, irrigation systems, and fence for deer control are available only for truck crops (vegetables, fruit, berries) and nursery crops. Not for grain, hay, or pasture.**

^{2/} **See List of Acceptable Supplemental Fertilization Materials**

^{3/} **See List of USDA Accredited Certifying Agents at:**
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/CertifyingAgents/Accredited.html>

Acceptable Supplemental Fertilization Materials ^{4/}

(Cost Share Approved for Organic Farming Operations Only)

Rock Minerals

High Calcium Aglime
Dolomitic Limestone
Rock Phosphate
Gypsum
Sulfate of Potash-Magnesia
Potassium Sulfate (Mined)
Glaucanite (Green Sand)
Galcial Gravel Dust
Lava Sand
Granite Meal
Azomite

Supplemental Nutrients

Fish Emulsion
Blood Meal ^{5/}
Feather Meal ^{5/}
Bone Meal ^{5/}
Alfalfa Meal
Soybean Meal
Poultry Litter ^{5/}
Cattle Manure ^{5/}
Dairy Manure ^{5/}
Pelleted Chicken Manure
Foliar Spray

4/ Amounts based upon soil test recommendations and an organic transition plan prepared by a USDA Accredited Certifying Agent.

5/ Subject to Bio-Security requirements of WVDA.

CATEGORIES OF CROP PRODUCTION FOR AMA

<u>Vegetable Crops</u>	<u>Lg/Sm Fruit/Nuts</u>	<u>Berry/Bramble/Vines</u>	<u>Organic Grain</u>	<u>Organic Hay/ Silage Haylage</u>	<u>Herbs/Flowers/ Nursery Crops</u>
* Corn, Sweet	Strawberry	Blackberry	* Wheat	Alfalfa	
* Lettuce	Apples	Raspberry	* Oats	Alfalfa grass	
* Carrots	Pears	Blueberry	* Rye	Tall grass/legume	
* Mushrooms	Peaches	Grape	* Barley		
* Tomatoes	Cherry		* Buckwheat		
* Beans, Bush			* Spelt		
* Beans, Pole			* Soybeans		
* Green Peas			* Millet		
* Brassicas			* Oil Seed		
cabbage			sunflower/flax		
broccoli			* Sorghum		
kale			* Peas, dry		
* Chenopods			* Beans, dry		
beets			* Triticale		
chard			* Corn		
spinach					
* Alliums					
onions					
garlic					
shallots					
* Asparagus					
* Curcubits					
cucumbers					
melons					
squash					
pumpkin					
* Peppers					
* Potatoes					