

**Certified Naturally Grown™
PRODUCE Inspection Worksheet
For Inspector Use Only - NOT a Public Document**

Farm Name: _____

Grower: _____

Inspector: _____ **Farm/Affiliation** _____

Inspection Date: _____

Instructions

1. These questions often have subjective answers and may sometimes leave you with another question rather than an answer. That's okay! Ask the farmer! If you really get confused, don't hesitate to contact the office.
2. The first five pages here will NOT be scanned on the internet and will NOT be seen by the public. Feel free to write notes and questions to yourself in the margins... or just use this as a guide for your inspection. **ONLY THE LAST SECTION WILL BE SCANNED IN.**
3. PLEASE REMEMBER: It is easy to get side-tracked into specific conversations and discussions. Do that AFTER the inspection is complete. Stay on track and perform a thorough investigation of the farmer's operation.

AS YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIELDS

Ask the farmer about their markets. As you walk through the growing fields, generally speaking, does it look like what they sell is all grown here?		YES / NO
Things are not always so neat and tidy on a farm, but there shouldn't be lots of scattered junked vehicles or equipment all dripping oil or fluids. Do the general grounds look like a place you would want to get food from?		YES / NO
Do you see cover crops planted on ground that is not currently in saleable crops? or is the ground just laying bare. That may be okay too, but ask the farmer about it. What kind of cover crops does he use and when. How else does he let the land rejuvenate between cash-crop plantings?		YES / NO / Notes
Ask the farmer how she rotates crops to minimize insect or disease pressure. Does she use a written plan, or basic principals that she keeps in mind?		YES / NO/ Notes

Does the farmer feel s/he is meeting her/his rotation goals?	YES / NO/ Notes
Does the farmer use compost or fresh animal manure? Ask where it's from.	YES / NO / Notes
If fresh manure, when do they apply it? Is it over 120 days before harvesting a cash crop that might come in contact with the manure? If they use compost, is it manure based or vegetable based compost? What makes them confident that the compost is finished? If they aren't confident that it's finished, are they treating it like fresh manure and applying it at least 120 days before harvest?	YES / NO / Notes
If they use compost, check it out yourself. Does it look and smell like "digested compost" to you, or does it still look like the original source material?	YES / NO
Dig into the soil in different fields. Does it look and smell alive... or is it putrid smelling or "dead" looking? Is it very compacted and compressed, or does it seem to have lots of aggregates and channels that air and water can move through? Do you see any worm castings or holes, or other signs of invertebrates? Were there lots of bugs crawling around or is it completely lifeless? How about plant organic matter, do you see visible pieces of old plants or roots, for example?	Notes
Ask how long the fields have been in production.	_____
When was the last time a chemical fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide was used? (If it has been less than 36 months, then the farm is classified as transitional).	Over 36 months OR Transitional
Do you see a lot of insects? Do you see insect damage? Ask the farmer to point out his biggest pest problem... the damage and the bug itself.	Notes
If there aren't any visible while you are there, ask why not. Ask how they deal with that problem and insect pest problems in general. (Also see the <i>WHEN YOUR ARE IN THE BARN/HOUSE</i> section).	
What kind of weeds do you see in the growing fields. Ask how the grower keeps her weeds under control.	Notes

WHILE YOU ARE IN THE BARN/HOUSE

Does the farmer have soil tests done regularly? If so, take a look at them! Does the farmer understand them, and can he explain them to you so they make sense? Is the farmer happy with the soil tests, or feel like there is more to work towards. If so, ask how he is working towards that goal. Notes

If there are specific nutrients lacking or recommended in the soil tests, how is the farmer addressing those deficiencies? If it is a bagged commercial organic fertilizer that they are using, ask to see the bags! Notes

Ask the farmer about her biggest insect problems. How is she handling the problem. If using a commercial spray, ask if it is approved for organic use and ask to look at the package. Check out where they are storing their approved materials. Are they stored with prohibited substances as well? If they are toxic, are they stored safely? YES / NO / Notes

Ask about disease problem(s), How are they handled. If using a commercial spray, ask if it is approved for organic use and ask to look at the package. Is it stored safely? YES / NO / Notes

Ask the grower where his seeds are from. Is it a company that sells treated and/or Genetically Modified seeds as well? How does the grower make sure that they don't get treated or GM seeds. YES / NO / Notes

Ask about transplants as well. Do they grow their own? If they are bought in, ask if they are grown according to acceptable CNG/Organic practices. YES / NO / Notes

BUFFERS/BOUNDARIES and SPRAY DRIFT

We get more calls and questions about this than anything else, so if you aren't sure, don't hesitate to contact us at the Certified Naturally Grown office. Just take notes on what you see and why you are concerned or confused, and we can help with whether or not it's acceptable or if the farmer needs to think about changing something to make it more acceptable.

Look at neighboring fields (if applicable). Ask what is growing over there, if it is sprayed, with WHAT, WHEN, HOW OFTEN and also specifically HOW it is sprayed. The farmer should know these things in detail if there is any chance of spray drift. concerns? / Notes

Does the farmer have a buffer that looks adequate based on the spray concerns? For example, a hay field that is not sprayed with anything but a broadcast chemical fertilizer, low to the ground may not be much of a concern. Even a boom sprayer (which stays very close to the ground) on a tractor applying once a year herbicide may not require much of a buffer because there is so little drift. We prefer to have a minimum of 50 feet as a *general rule*, but there are USDA Certified Organic farms that have only 20 feet of space between sprayed fields of this type and the Organic fields because there is so little problem with drift.

What do YOU think, though? Does spray drift look like it could be a problem here?

Are there shrubs or trees that help to block drift?

What if the neighbors use high-pressure sprayers that go 50-60 feet (for example orchard farmers) and could easily get blown longer distances if there is a breeze? In that case a much larger buffer area and/or significant trees or taller shrubs would become a factor in determining acceptable buffer widths, as would prevailing winds.

Is the FARMER confident and comfortable with their buffer zones? Ask them to explain why or why not.

Do you feel the producer's water source is safe to use for irrigation purposes?

YES / NO / Notes

Questions to consider: What is the farm's irrigation source? Is it publicly and generally known to be too contaminated to irrigate from (this is rare)? Ask if other farms are irrigating from this water source. If the farmer isn't concerned, but you are, then feel free to contact your local State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (or equivalent) or USDA Soil and Water office and ask them (or let us know and we'll do it for you).

Checklist - Did you take a look at and/or ask about these items?

Greenhouse/Processing area/Other outbuildings Yes / No / NA

Tillage Yes / No / NA

Spray Yes / No / NA

Irrigation Yes / No / NA

Seeding Yes / No / NA

Fertilization Yes / No / NA

Transplanting Yes / No / NA

Compost Yes / No / NA

Soil Test Results, if any Yes / No / NA

Other _____ Yes / No / NA

Finally, and most importantly, is this a place YOU would feel comfortable and eager to get your produce from? Why or why not? Yes / No / Notes

----- **! WAIT !** -----

This NEXT section (the Summary Inspection Report) is the one that is scanned in and made public! Please DO NOT write extra comments on the Summary Inspection Report, make notes on the above worksheet forms only.

Certified Naturally Grown™
SUMMARY INSPECTION REPORT - Produce

Farm Name _____
Grower's Name _____
Inspector _____
Inspector's Farm/Affiliation _____
Inspection Date _____ Total Inspection Time: _____

To the best of my abilities and based on my observations and interview with the producer(s), I feel confident in making the following declarations about the farm the above grower wants to have listed as Certified Naturally Grown™ :

I saw no evidence of prohibited insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, prohibited chemical fertilizer, hormones or antibiotics use. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The farmer is not irrigating from a water source that I know or suspect to be chemically contaminated. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The fields and pasture under consideration look to be surrounded by an adequate buffer to protect from chemical or spray drift contamination. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The farmer is careful to make sure that no genetically modified or chemically treated seeds are used on this acreage. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The Grower(s) demonstrate a commitment to sustainable agricultural practices that seek to maintain and increase the long-term fertility of soils and protect and conserve water resources. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

I certify that to the best of my abilities, observations, and based on my personal interview with the producer(s), I feel confident in recommending that the above listed producer(s) and their farm or ranch

be included not be included (please circle one)

in the Certified Naturally Grown™ program.

Signature of Inspector

Date

Inspector Contact Information

This information will be kept completely confidential but is required for this form to be valid. It is only so we can contact you and check that you filled in this form.

Farm you inspected: _____
Your Name: _____
Your Phone: _____
Your Email: _____
Your Mailing Address: _____ _____

WAIT! Did you sign the summary report at the bottom and initial the agree/disagree statements?

IMPORTANT: Did you indicate your farm/affiliation on the summary report? This could be a farm name, a university department, an extension agency, a soil/water conservation district, or it could be “customer” if you’re part of a group of 3 or more customers.

Please mail this page and the Summary Inspection Report (or all the Inspection sheets, but only the Summary Inspection Report will be made public) to:

Certified Naturally Grown
540 President Street, Third Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11215 (new office!)

If you need more copies of these forms, you can download and print them at www.naturallygrown.org/programs/documents

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at info@naturallygrown.org or call 877-211-0308.

Thank you!

Certified Naturally Grown