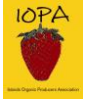


New Producer (farmer) Questionnaire



If you complete this in a separate document be sure to include the question's corresponding number and letter with your response

1. General

- a. Describe farm location, area, important landmarks if any; whether owned, leased or rented; length of tenure. Provide a legal description of land (from property tax or assessment notice).
- b. Give name, address, phone, fax and email address of owner(s) of the land, if other than the applicant(s). If possible, provide a copy of your written agreement that gives you care and control of your growing area (your lease or use agreement). Do other owners, or people other than the applicants, live on the land or use it in any way?
- c. Important: provide map(s) that shows location of farm, field boundaries, landmarks, roadways, etc.; building and storage areas; neighbouring field uses and buffer zones, if any, as well as other relevant information. Include dimensions and areas on your map. The map must be reasonably to scale.
- d. Write a brief statement of your reasons for growing organically, and what you're working towards.
- e. Will you also farm non-certified acreage, at this location or elsewhere? If yes, give details.
- f. If managers or consultants are relied upon, give their names, addresses and phone numbers.

2. Land History and Crop Management Practices

Give details for each separate or significantly different unit of land.

- a. How long have you owned, leased or rented this land? On what date was it acquired?
- b. If less than three years, give previous owner/occupier's name, address and phone number. Please give as many details as possible about the previous use and management of the land. Indicate your assessment of the reliability of your information.
- c. Has anyone else farmed or rented this land since you acquired it? If yes, give details about who, and how it was managed. Again, indicate the confidence you place in the reliability of your information.
- d. For what purposes have you used this land since you acquired it? Please give details, including dates, crops grown and specifics of land use.
- e. Summarize all materials applied to crops or to land for the past three years. Include all fertilizers, amendments, cover crops, organic matter, herbicides, foliar sprays, fungicides, pesticides, etc.
- f. Does your land have any pressure treated fence posts or other pressure treated lumber on it? Describe location, how long posts or lumber has been there, and exact distance from crops, soil or water.
- g. Please include any other information you have that might give the certification committee a better understanding of your land's history, your present situation, and the direction you are heading.

3. Crop Management Practices for the Current Year

- a. List crops to be produced, area planted and yield expected.

Organic Matter and Soil Fertility

- b. Describe the land, soil classification and soil types. Mention slope, elevation, exposure, underlay and vegetation.
- c. Attach copies of current (and past years if available) soil tests. Please comment on pH, organic matter content, nutrients and minerals, as levels are now and plans for improvements.
- d. Describe composting methods, materials, sources and products such as starters or inoculants that you use.
- e. List the type, source, brand name and quantity of organic matter applied or to be applied to your land this year. Give date of applications if possible. Give quantity applied and area to which it was applied.
- f. Are there any known soil fertility problems? Outline your methods for management of problem areas, as well as your general program for building and maintaining soil fertility. If you are applying for certification for transitional acreage, describe your program to rebuild its natural fertility.
- g. Describe the soil conservation practices used or to be used this year.

Plant and Seed Sources

- h. List suppliers of seeds and transplants you use. Are they organically grown?

Water Quality and Irrigation

- i. What are your sources of water? (Irrigation, washing, processing etc.) Is there a possibility that this water has been contaminated? Describe your situation. Note a recent water test, showing at least coliform and non-coliform bacteria levels, is required.

Cultural Practices

- j. Weed control: list methods and materials used or to be used this year. Include any herbicidal materials or substances to be used.
- k. Insect and pest control: list methods and materials used or to be used this year. Include all pesticidal materials or substances used.
- l. Control or other pests (such as rodents, deer, birds, etc.): list all methods and materials used or to be used this year.
- m. Disease control: list methods and materials used or to be used this year. Include all fungicidal materials or substances used.
- n. Other cultural practices (fruit thinning, sizing, growth regulators, hormones, etc.): list all other methods and materials used or to be used this year.

Buffer Zones

- o. Describe the uses of neighbouring fields and properties. List buffer zone areas and strategies that you use to minimize or eliminate contamination from nearby.

Equipment

- p. List all equipment used on your farm. Be sure to include any equipment that comes to your farm from other farms, or brought by contractors. Is any of it also used in conventional farming? If so, please explain the circumstances and measures you use to prevent contamination of your farm via machinery.

Post Harvest Handling

- q. List all materials used or to be used this year in the handling or storage of crops.
- r. Describe how and where crops will be dried, cleaned, processed and packed.
- s. Where will the crops be stored?
- t. If you also farm conventional or transitional acreage, or share facilities with other producers, describe your system for keeping certified crops and products separate from other production in packaging, labeling, cleaning, processing and storage.

4. Farm Plan

- a. Please describe your plans, goals and direction for the next year, and for the next five years or more.
- b. Provide crop rotation plans for each area of your farm.

5. Other

- a. How can IOPA help you? Can we help you with advice or the search for solutions to problems that you have or foresee?
- b. Are there ways you can help IOPA or fellow members? Do you have special skills our non-profit association can benefit from? Are you or is someone else in your family willing and able to contribute to the functioning of IOPA, e.g. typing, phone work, committee work, research, etc.? Are you interested in writing articles for the newsletter?