



Nature's International Certification Services
 224 East State Highway 56, Viroqua, WI 54665
 PH 608-637-7080 FAX 608-637-7460
 nics@naturesinternational.com
 www.naturesinternational.com

**2019
 Fee Estimate
 Worksheet for
 Crop Producers**

"In Nature there is abundance, with Nature there is success"

KEEP AND RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

Annual Certification Fees - Crop Producers

As part of the certification process, annual certification, inspection, and user fees are assessed, as applicable, to your operation. All fees, including any add-on fees, are to be paid as part of the certification process. NICS offers a choice of two competitive fee schedules (explained below), which allows you to choose the certification fee option that best benefits your operation. Both options include a "Base Certification Fee" and "User Fees" based from your gross organic sales and/or services. Option 1 "User Fees" are based on your gross organic sales and/or services in the current year and is reported and paid on a quarterly basis. Option 2 "User Fees" are based on your previous year's gross organic sales and/or services (12 continuous months) and is a one-time payment submitted with your application fees. Once you choose Option 2 you cannot go back to Option 1 without approval and settlement of User Fees.

Option 1 - Crop Certification Fees

Base Certification Fee: <i>Prior to September 1st</i>	\$350.00	User Fees: Reported and paid quarterly. Based on actual gross organic sales and/or services as noted below:
Base Certification Fee: <i>After September 1st</i>	\$750.00	

Option 1 User Fees are .5% (.005) of all gross organic sales and services. This equals \$5 for every \$1000 of gross organic sales and services. The User Fee rate drops to .15% (.0015) for any gross organic sales and services over \$350,000 with maximum annual User Fees of \$10,000. Gross organic sales and services are to be reported to the office on a quarterly basis with applicable User Fees payable at that time, unless the Transaction Certificate System is used (in which case the User Fees are to be paid with the TC billing). You will receive a quarterly reporting form and must report within 30 days (even NO sales) or you may be subject to a Missed Deadline Fee, per the Additional Fees Sheet.

Option 2 - Crop Certification Fees

Base Certification Fee: <i>Prior to September 1st</i>	\$350.00	User Fees: Reported and paid annually with paperwork. Based on previous year's gross organic sales and/or services. See table below:
Base Certification Fee: <i>After September 1st</i>	\$750.00	

Option 2 User Fees are only for an updating NICS producer or a producer transferring to NICS from another certification agency who has been certified for a minimum of 12 continuous months and would prefer to report and pay annually rather than quarterly. Option 2 allows you to take your gross organic sales and/or services from the last 12 months and calculate your User Fees using the table below. Use the table below to locate the range of your gross organic sales and/or services to determine your annual User Fees. User Fees must be reported and paid with your Certification Fees and submitted with annual paperwork.

Gross Income from Sales of Certified Products

Sales of at least	Sales no more than	Option 2 Annual User Fees		Sales of at least	Sales no more than	Option 2 Annual User Fees
\$ -	\$ 4,999	\$25	Option 2 Base Certification Fee + Option 2 Annual User Fees = Total Option 2 Certification Fees	\$ 100,000	\$ 124,999	\$625
\$ 5,000	\$ 9,999	\$50		\$ 125,000	\$ 149,999	\$750
\$ 10,000	\$ 14,999	\$75		\$ 150,000	\$ 174,999	\$875
\$ 15,000	\$ 24,999	\$125		\$ 175,000	\$ 199,999	\$1,000
\$ 25,000	\$ 34,999	\$175		\$ 200,000	\$ 224,999	\$1,125
\$ 35,000	\$ 49,999	\$250		\$ 225,000	\$ 249,999	\$1,250
\$ 50,000	\$ 64,999	\$325		\$ 250,000	\$ 299,999	\$1,500
\$ 65,000	\$ 79,999	\$400		\$ 300,000	\$ 399,999	\$1,825
\$ 80,000	\$ 99,999	\$500		\$ 400,000	\$ 499,999	\$2,000

Producers with gross organic sales and/or services over \$500,000 \$2,000 plus .15% (.0015) on all gross organic sales and/or services over \$500,000 with a maximum annual fee of \$10,000.

Annual Inspection Fees - Crop Producers

Option 1	Option 2
Inspection Base Fee:	Inspection Base Fee:
\$300.00	\$300.00

Both Option 1 and Option 2 require an Inspection Base Fee to be submitted with the Certification Fees. Total inspection costs include the base fee, applicable inspection expenses, plus a \$35 administrative fee. Once we receive the billing for your inspection we will invoice you for your inspection costs and administrative fee.

Annual Discounts Offered - Crop Certification Fees

Early Bird Certification Discount*	Veteran's Certification Discount
Complete Application received by March 1, 2019**	Annual Certification Discount
-\$50.00	-\$75.00
Complete Application received by April 1, 2019**	Any operation that can exhibit ownership by military veterans qualify. Evidence of veteran status is required.
-\$25.00	
* Returning NICS Producers only	
** May be reverted if fees are not paid in full by May 1, 2019	
A complete application must include all items according to the enclosed check list or Early Bird Discount will not be given. These discounts apply only to Certification Fees	

Annual Add-On Fees - Crop Certification Fees

On-Farm Processor/Handler & Maple Syrup Certification & Inspection Base Fees	
On-Farm/Maple Syrup Base Certification Fee:	On-Farm/Maple Syrup Inspection Base Fee:
\$200.00	\$100.00
An On-Farm Processor/Handler is any certified organic operation which processes or packages organic agricultural products produced exclusively on their farm to be marketed as organic. Certification and Inspection Fees for On-Farm Processors/Handlers and Maple Syrup processing are assessed as an addition to the Option 1 or 2 Certification, Inspection, and User Fees outlined above. Please contact the office with any questions.	
Multi-Site Operations Certification & Inspection Base Fee	
Fee for EACH location over 25 miles or for every additional 5 locations	Inspection Base Fee for EACH Location or for every 5 locations
\$100.00	\$100.00
Expedited Service	
Expedited Crop Certification:	\$400.00
NICS offers an expedited certification service for those operations who have critical timing needs. While expedited services do not guarantee certification will be granted by a specified date, your certification request will receive priority processing and inspection assignment. The success of the expedited service lies in your ability to comply with the National Organic Program and your timely responses to requests for information. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions.	

Refunds: Producers wishing to withdraw an application or surrender their certificate may be eligible for a partial refund of Certification and Inspection Fees. Refunds, if applicable, will be pro-rated based upon the stage of the application at the time of the request. Please contact the office with any questions.



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Additional Service Fees - Certification Fees

The following additional service fees may be applicable to your operation and are nonrefundable fees based upon the frequency indicated. See Fee Definitions located below the table for more information about each individual fee. NICS reserves the right to charge additional fees, as applicable, for administrative and certification related services not specifically listed, and will be such additions will be charged at a rate of \$90/hour.

Fee Type	Fee Amount	Fee Frequency
Administrative Fee:	\$90	Per Hour
Returned Check Fee:	\$30	Each
Extension Fee:	\$150	One-Time
Noncompliance Fee for Annual Updated Paperwork & Fees:	\$100	One-Time
Late Paperwork Fee:	\$75	Per Month
Reinstatement Fee:	\$300 / \$1,000	One-Time
Inspection Cancellation:	\$100	Each
Missed Deadline Fee:	\$30	Each
Mediation Fee:	\$150 / \$300	One-Time
Settlement Agreement Fee:	\$100	Annual
Interest	1%	Monthly

Fee Definitions

Administrative Fee: Administrative Fees are assessed at a rate of \$90/hour for services such as, but not limited to, label review, adding additional products or services to an organic certificate, or other services provided outside of the normal scope of the annual certification process. Contact the office for more information.

Returned Check Fee: A returned check for Non-Sufficient Funds is subject to a \$30 fee which includes the fee NICS is charged by our bank and NICS processing fee.

Extension Fee: An Extension Fee of \$150 is due, along with the Extension of Certification request form by May 1, for NICS certified operations who are not renewing their certification and have certified inventory to be sold or who are transferring from NICS to another accredited certification agency. In addition, user fees for organic sales made during the extension period (May 1st - August 1st) are due quarterly and are based on a rate of .5% (.005) of the gross organic sales amount. Contact the office or refer to the NICS Certification Manual for more information on extending organic certification with NICS.

Noncompliance Fee for Annual Updated Paperwork & Fees: Annual update certification paperwork and applicable fees are due in the NICS office yearly by May 1. After May 1, noncompliance proceedings will begin and a \$100 fee will be assessed. Contact the office or refer to the NICS Certification Manual for more information about annual certification requirements.

Late Paperwork Fee: Late Paperwork Fees are assessed monthly at a rate of \$75 per month beginning June 1, if annual update certification paperwork and applicable fees have not been received in the NICS office. Contact the office or refer to the NICS Certification Manual for more information about annual certification requirements.

Reinstatement Fee: A reinstatement request often demands the dedication of considerable staff hours. Therefore, those operations who are in need of reinstatement to the National Organic Program are assessed a Reinstatement Fee which covers staff time that is not considered part of a normal certification request. Reinstatement requests for suspensions which were issued strictly for failing to submit annual update paperwork and pay certification fees will be assessed at \$300. Reinstatement requests for all other suspensions are subject to a \$1,000 reinstatement fee. This fee is in addition to the certification fee and inspection deposit. Costs above inspection base fee are billed separately.

Inspection Cancellation Fee: If a scheduled inspection is canceled within 1 week (7 days) of the set inspection date, NICS reserves the right to charge a \$100 cancellation fee. Inspections canceled outside of the 1 week window may be subject to additional travel cost. Please contact the office if you feel your inspection needs to be canceled so we may reschedule your inspection.

Missed Deadline Fee: Many communications from NICS include a deadline by which the certified operation must provide a response. Example of such communications may include, but are not limited to: requests for additional information, Interim Certification Determination Letters, Quarterly User Fee Reporting, or Notices of Noncompliance. Failure to provide an adequate response by the deadline indicated may leave the certified operation subject to our missed deadline fee of \$30 and possible adverse action. Note: overdue invoices are not subject to our missed deadline fee but are subject to interest.

Mediation Fees: In response to a Denial of Certification, Notice of Proposed Suspension, or Notice of Proposed Revocation, an applicant or certified operation may submit a written request for mediation as a means of resolving an adverse action. A mediation request must be accompanied by the prescribed mediation fees in order to cover NICS' administrative costs associated with mediation. Mediation of adverse actions related to submitting annual update paperwork and certification fees is subject to a \$150 mediation fee. All other mediation requests are subject to a \$300 mediation fee. Additional costs incurred during the course of mediation, such as the hiring of an outside mediator, are assumed by the applicant or certified operation, no matter the outcome of mediation. Additional administrative fees may apply as applicable. Contact the office or refer to the NICS Certification Manual for more information about mediation.

Settlement Agreement Fees: Successful mediation will result in the certified operation and NICS entering into a Settlement Agreement, wherein both parties agree to certain terms ensuring continued certification. Verification that the terms of a Settlement Agreement are being met requires additional administrative capacity and is therefore subject to a \$100, minimum, Settlement Agreement fee for each year the Settlement Agreement is active. Additional administrative fees may apply as applicable.

Interest: You have a 30 day interest-free period for fees charged, provided you have paid your previous balance in full. Balances past 30 day will be charged 1% monthly on the 6th day of each month.



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This estimate is based on the information provided by the NICS applicant and may change as a result of new information received. If you have any questions please contact NICS at 608-637-7080.

COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH APPLICATION AND PAYMENT

Name: _____ Farm/Facility Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Date Requested: _____

Total Estimated - Crop Certification & Inspection Fees - Option 1	
Base Certification Fee - Option 1 (<i>\$350 before Sept. 1 or \$750 after Sept. 1</i>)	
Inspection Base Fee	\$ 300.00
Total Add-On Fees (if applicable) Add	\$
Less any Discounts (if applicable) Less	\$
Total Estimated Cost Due with Paperwork	\$

Total Estimated - Crop Certification & Inspection Fees - Option 2	
Base Certification Fee - Option 2 (<i>\$350 before Sept. 1 or \$750 after Sept. 1</i>)	
2018 Gross Organic Sales and/or Services \$	\$
Use Table from Page 1 to Indicate User Fees	
Inspection Base Fee	\$ 300.00
Total Add-On Fees (if applicable, indicate from below) Add	\$
Less Any Discounts (if applicable, indicate from below) Less	\$
Total Estimated Cost Due with Paperwork	\$

Annual Add-on Fees - Crop Certification Fees				
	Qty	Each	Total	X Here
On-Farm Processor/Handler Certification Fee	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	
On-Farm Processor/Handler Inspection Base Fee	N/A	N/A	\$100.00	
Multi-Site Operations Certification Fee for EACH Location		\$100.00	\$	
Multi-Site Operations Inspection Base Fee for EACH Location		\$100.00	\$	
Expedited Services	N/A	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Copy of Paperwork to be Mailed Back	N/A	\$5.00	\$5.00	

Annual Discount - Crop Certification Fees		
	Total	X Here
Early Bird Before March 1, 2019 (Returning NICS Clients Only with Complete Paperwork)	-\$50.00	
Early Bird Before April 1, 2019 (Returning NICS Clients Only with Complete Paperwork)	-\$25.00	
Veteran's Discount	-\$75.00	