

*Sweetwater Verified*  
**Questionnaire for Farmers/Growers who are  
Not USDA NOP certified but are using Organic Practices**

As assurance to our customers of our commitment to healthy, humane & homegrown food meeting the criteria set forth in the **Sweetwater Pledge**, we have developed this questionnaire for non-certified organic vendors of Sweetwater Local Foods Market.

Our intent is not to mandate a specific practice; however we are looking for a general knowledge of accepted organic and sustainable practices.

**Your land.**

Do you own or lease the land you are raising your products on, and how long have you been growing at this location? If less than three years do you know its history?

**National Organic Program (NOP) Standards.**

Are you familiar with and do you have access to a copy of the NOP standards?

Do you have access to a copy of the Organic Materials Research Institute (OMRI) lists of acceptable materials for organic use?

How long have you been using organic methods in your growing practices?

Are there areas of your farm still being farmed conventionally, and if yes are appropriate measures being taken to assure a buffer zone?

**Soil Building Program.**

What soil building practices do you follow? Examples: compost, cover cropping, mulching, rotation and amendments applied to soil.

**Plants.**

Do you obtain seed from organic sources when possible? Please state sources used for seed purchases.

Do you raise your own transplants; if not, where do you purchase them?

**Weeds & Pests.**

Please give a short description of how you control for pests & weeds. Included brand names of products used if appropriate.

**Animals.**

Are all animals raised for market given routine access to outdoor areas when seasonally appropriate?

Are all animals raised on your farm, or do you lease land? Please list other farms used.

What methods are used to treat pastures to build fertility and control weeds & insects?

If you raise crops for feed please provide proof of where you obtain your GMO-free seed.

If feed is purchased, please provide proof of GMO-free feed purchase and where purchased.

How are sick animals treated on your farm?

If you intend to sell meat at Sweetwater, please attach a copy of your USDA/MDA certificate of operation and state where your animals are processed.

**Fruit.**

Please give a brief description of history of your orchard and describe how you avoid use of synthetic chemicals. List general types of inputs used.