

Baystate Organic Certifiers

All NH Farmers Should have received an email from Baystate Organic Certifiers. Here is the email for your reference:

We hope this finds you well. Baystate Organic Certifiers recently learned of the unfortunate news that NH Department of Agriculture Markets & Food (NHDAMF) is ending their organic certification program. We understand this is upsetting and potentially disruptive to your business, but switching certifiers does not have to be as challenging as it may seem. We are here to help make the process as simple and straight-forward as possible.

Baystate Organic Certifiers has been in operation since 1986; first, as the certification program for NOFA/Mass, and later, as an independent certification program since 2002. Our Certification Director has worked with Baystate since 2000. We offer certification services to the entire continental United States with the East Coast being our core certification area. Baystate currently certifies numerous organic operations in New Hampshire.

Some benefits of certifying with Baystate include our competitive and all-inclusive fee structure (no additional fees for inspections or new product/label reviews and no quarterly assessments), our efficient timeframe, and our superior level of customer service. Recently, we have assisted approximately 150 operations successfully transition from other accredited agencies that discontinued their certification services.

The following protocols are in place to ease this transition:

We are happy to accept your existing system plan documents that you have on file with NHDAMF. Our staff will transfer your information to our forms and send them back to you for review and for any missing information. This data transfer may take around 10-14 days to return to you, but we hope that having the application forms started for you helps reduce the amount of paperwork you have to repeat filling out.

Exclusively for your transition, we will have dedicated staff available on Zoom each day next week for open office hours. Our staff will answer questions, help you navigate any application documents, discuss certification timeframes, review existing labels, address any concerns you might have, or be there to say hello and welcome to Baystate. If the need is present, we will extend availability on Zoom beyond this next week. And as always, our website is there with resources and forms you might need: www.baystateorganic.org

NOTE added by NOFA-NH: Some of these zoom dates have past, but Baystate is open to scheduling more. Either contact Baystate directly or Email NOFA-NH.

[Thursday March 7th 4:00PM](#)

[Friday March 8th 11:00 AM](#)

You are certainly welcome to call us directly at your leisure. Contact information is below. Our phones have been exceptionally busy recently with the implementation of the new Strengthening Organic Enforcement regulations, so if we are not able to answer straight away, please leave a message. We will call you back as soon as possible.

If you prefer, you may also complete our certification application. Attached are blank copies of our organic application documents and fee schedule. Please review our checklist of additional documents required for certification as our documents may be different than what you have submitted in the past to NHDAMF.

Please note, you may split your fee into two payments to help make this transition easier and less stressful.

We hope to make this challenging time for you as streamlined as possible while still complying with the organic regulations. We are aware of a communication sent to you that indicated an application deadline of March 15th. This information is not correct; we are able to process your applications at any time. We encourage you to apply as soon as possible to meet the application deadline set by the National Organic Program of April 27, 2024. Certification decisions for all applications will be made this spring.

Application documents can be submitted in multiple ways: electronically as email attachments, via Dropbox links, WeTransfer links, or printed and mailed by hard copy. Fee payments must be sent as cash or check.

Do not hesitate to reach out to any of our staff with questions or concerns.

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