



## TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

### Thinking about becoming Certified Organic? Utah's Transition to Organic Project

#### ***What is USDA Certified Organic?***

In order to sell, label, or advertise any agricultural product as Organic it must be produced in compliance with the National Organic Program (NOP) federal regulations and verified by a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Organic crop, livestock, and handlers develop and implement an organic system plan, apply with a certifying agent, and undergo yearly inspection.

This process can be challenging, but with USU's new Transition to Organic Partnership Program you don't have to do it alone!

#### ***What is the Transition to Organic Partnership Program?***

Utah State University Extension is partnering with the USDA's 'Transition to Organic Partnership Program' or TOPP. TOPP is six regions working together nationwide towards a common goal: *to grow the network of organic producers.*

Here in Utah, USU's TOPP team is working in four key areas to help Utah farmers transition to certified organic:

- 1. Mentorship:** Connecting experienced certified organic producers with those transitioning to help guide them through the transition process and offer direct farmer-to-farmer mentorship
- 2. Technical Assistance:** Connecting producers to an organic production resource library, workshops, field days, and educational events
- 3. Community Building:** Foster connections within the organic agriculture community to facilitate networking and collaboration
- 4. Workforce Training and Development** Creating targeted training and education for the organic workforce along the entire supply chain.

#### ***Want to get involved as an organic mentor or mentee?***

No matter your size or what you produce (grains, veggies, fruit, or livestock), if you are certified organic or thinking about transitioning, we want to hear from you!

Mentees are transitioning producers who own or are employed by an existing agricultural operation. Mentees will receive 40 hours of direct, real-time, one-on-one mentorship, as well as a \$500 travel and education stipend over the course of a year.

Mentors are experienced certified organic producers who want to share what they've learned and help guide transitioning farmers. Mentors will receive a \$3,000 per year stipend for their time and expertise.

Applications are open on a rolling basis, so reach out any time!

### ***Get In Touch***

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### ***Learn More***

*USU Certified Organic:* <https://extension.usu.edu/certifiedorganic/>  
*Request or Become a Mentor:* <https://extension.usu.edu/certifiedorganic/mentor/>  
*West/Southwest TOPP:* <https://www.organictransition.org/region/west-southwest/>