



Prior Land Use

The NOP Regulations at §205.202 require that to be eligible for organic certification, all land requested for certification must have had no prohibited substances (per §205.105) applied to it for a period of 3 years immediately preceding harvest of the crop. This affidavit can be used to demonstrate compliance with this requirement when the entity requesting certification has not managed the land for the entirety of the 3 years.

INSTRUCTIONS:

This form is to be filled out by both the "PCO Client" (Applicant or Certified Operation) and the "Prior Land Manager" (person who was responsible for the management of the land being requested for certification during any period over the previous 3 years).

Sections A-C should be completed by the PCO Client:

A. Name of PCO Client: _____

B. Date PCO Client assumed / is assuming management of the land (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

C. Field Information Table (attach additional sheets if necessary):

Current Field Name (as listed in OSP application) (Ex: Ex: Field 1)	Previous Field Name or Number (Under Prior Land Manager) (Ex. Baker Parcel)	Physical address or GPS coordinates* (Ex: 41.631416, -78.220544)	Total Acres (Ex: 35 acres)

***Note: The location and field identification information must match the information submitted on the map and Field & Crops. GPS coordinates can be for any area within the boundaries of the land being requested for certification.**

Section D & E (as well as F & G if applicable) should be completed by the Prior Land Manager:

D. I verify that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

- 1) I managed the land identified above from (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ until _____.
- 2) During the time that I had management control of the land noted above, prohibited materials listed in the National Organic List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances in §205.105 of 7 CFR 205, USDA-NOP Final Organic Rule (such as synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, urea, hydrated lime, ground wallboard, treated seed, sewage sludge/biosolids, or crops produced via excluded methods (i.e. GMO/genetically modified)):
 - ☐ Were NOT applied to the land or grown.
 - ☐ I'm NOT sure. (Complete Section F)
 - ☐ YES, I applied a prohibited material or GMO Crop. (Complete Section F)
 - ☐ N/A, land was certified organic until time of PCO Client management. (certificate attached)

E. Signatures and contact information:

Name of prior land manager: _____ Phone number: _____

Signature of prior land manager: _____ Date: _____

Note: PCO may require additional verification to verify the accuracy of your land history statement. Making a false statement to an accredited certifying agent shall be subject to provisions of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code. (NOP§205.100(c)(2)).

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

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Section F

If you answered “yes” or “not sure” to #2 on the previous page, complete the table below with the material, seed treatment, or crop produced with excluded methods* you used or are not sure about. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Previous Field Name or Number (Under Prior Land Manager)	# of Acres Affected	Brand Name of Input Material or GMO Crop	Manufacturer/Source of Input Material or GMO Crop	Date of Last Input Application or Planting of GMO Crop (MM/DD/YYYY)

Section G

Additional information/comments about the fields, organic eligibility, etc. (if needed):

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**Definition of Excluded Methods: A variety of methods used to genetically modify organisms or influence their growth and development by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes and are not considered compatible with organic production. Such methods include cell fusion, microencapsulation and macroencapsulation, and recombinant DNA technology (including gene deletion, gene doubling, introducing a foreign gene, and changing the positions of genes when achieved by recombinant DNA technology). Such methods do not include the use of traditional breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, or tissue culture.*