

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
 FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

**CERTIFIED ORGANIC HANDLER APPLICATION
 FOR EXEMPTION FROM MARKET PROMOTION ASSESSMENTS
 PAID UNDER FEDERAL MARKETING ORDERS**

SECTION 1 - HANDLER APPLICATION

To request an exemption from assessment under the applicable Federal Marketing Orders, the handler must operate under an approved organic process system plan authorized by the National Organic Program (NOP), and handle or market only products that are eligible for a 100% organic product label under the NOP. The information on this form is required to make a determination concerning a handler's eligibility for exemption. PLEASE SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION TO THE APPROPRIATE MARKETING COMMITTEE/BOARD.

Date: _____
 To: _____ (Committee/Board) Marketing Order No.: _____
 Applicant's Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____
 E-mail Address (optional): _____

In order to be exempt, the above-named entity must meet all of the following (*please check*):

- Operate under an approved organic process system plan authorized by the NOP, and handle or market only products that are eligible for a 100% organic product label under the NOP.
- Not be a split operation, as defined by the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and the NOP.
- Be subject to assessments under the Marketing Order program for which this exemption is requested.

Please list all commodities handled or marketed, and check the appropriate box(es) (*attach a separate sheet, if necessary*):

Commodity Handled/Marketed	Eligible to be Labeled as 100% Organic?	Commodity Handled/Marketed	Eligible to be Labeled as 100% Organic?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

If applicable, please indicate the number of producers for whom you handle or market, and include yourself in the total if you handle or market your own production: _____

Attach the following:

1. A copy of your organic operation certificate provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent under the OFPA and the NOP; *and*
2. A copy of your NOP producer certificate, and a NOP certificate for each additional producer for whom you handle or market.

I certify that my firm meets these requirements and is eligible for an organic assessment exemption under the above-named Federal Marketing Order for the 20__ through 20__ assessment period.

 Signature

 Date

SECTION 2 - COMMITTEE/BOARD NOTIFICATION OF EXEMPTION *(completed by Committee/Board)*

Your application dated _____, 20____, requesting exemption from marketing promotion assessments, including paid advertising, as specified under the provisions of § 900.700 has been:

- Approved, subject to compliance with § 900.700 regulations for the 20____ through 20____ assessment period.
- Disapproved (attached are the reasons for disapproval).

Marketing Committee/Board Representative Signature

Date

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information is 0581-0216. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.