



Mentorship Opportunity Announcement

Opportunity Overview

The Northwest Transition to Organic Partnership Program (NW TOPP) is offering a new mentorship program for producers transitioning to organic. Learn from an expert and become part of an agricultural network while working one on one with an experienced organic producer. In the program, producers transitioning to organic (mentees) will be paired with a certified organic mentor who will provide support and guidance during the transition to organic process. As a mentee, you will have the opportunity to learn best practices of certified organic producers, receive guidance on organic certification requirements, and gain valuable insights on organic production techniques. All crop and livestock producers planning to or already in the process of transitioning to organic are welcome to apply!

Transitioning Producer Qualifications

- Operate, manage, or work for an operation planning to or in the process of transitioning to organic
- At least 2 years of experience as an owner, manager, or employee of an operation (or equivalent experience)
- Planning to or already in the process of developing an Organic System Plan
- Intend to become certified organic
- Interest and willing to learn from a mentor
- Interest in learning and testing out new organic production practices
- Open to inviting a mentor to visit your operation either in person or virtually

Responsibilities

All transitioning producer responsibilities can be completed in person or virtually:

- Work towards developing an Organic System Plan and receiving organic certification
- Complete mentee training
- Complete onboarding with mentor and mentorship coordinator
- Host mentor at least once on your own operation
- Visit mentor's operation at least once
- Meet with mentor monthly
- Answer mentor's emails and phone calls in a timely manner





- Complete program surveys and evaluations
- Recommended to attend an educational event with mentor

Benefits

- Free mentorship from an experienced organic producer
- Receive at least 40 hours of direct mentorship on organic production practices and certification topics
- Learn from a mentor who has years of experience with your area of production and certification
- Become a part of an organic community and build your support network
- Learn through additional technical assistance and educational events, field days, and workshops

To Apply

Application coming soon! Please complete the interest form at tilth.org/education/transition. Contact Hanna at TOPP@tilth.org or call 541-286-7228 with questions or to sign up.

