



## Labeling Organic Products

A product that is labeled “organic” has met the National Organic Standard through a third party certification program. A certified organic producer, handler or processor is able to sell 100% Organic, Organic, and Made with Organic products to consumers that know the product has met the organic standards set down in the National Organic Program.

All organic products must be properly labeled. Types of organic labels include:

- 1) Retail organic products.
  - 2) Wholesale organic products.
  - 3) Organic livestock feed.
- Organic livestock feed has specific labeling requirements. See NOP 205.306 for details or contact WSDA Organic Food Program for more information on labeling livestock feed.
  - Wholesale organic products must be labeled so that the organic identify of the product is traceable. See NOP 205.307 for details on labeling wholesale bulk products.
  - Retail organic products are divided into different labeling categories by the USDA National Organic Program. Processors certified by WSDA Organic Food Program calculate certification fees based on the labeling claims made on their packaged products. The table below outlines the differences between labeling claims and the labeling requirements of the National Organic Program for products certified by WSDA Organic Food Program.

### 100% Organic

#### **MUST:**

- Be made entirely of 100% organic ingredients and processing aids (excluding added water and salt).
- Identify all organic ingredients as “organic” on the ingredient statement if it is a multi-ingredient product.
- Include the statement “Certified Organic by Washington State Department of Agriculture.” This statement must be located directly adjacent to the name of the manufacture or distributor of the product.

#### **OPTIONAL:**

- The USDA Organic Seal in the colors set forth by the National Organic Program.
- The WSDA Organic Seal (WSDA has separate Producer, Handler and Processor seals – be sure the correct one is used).
- 100% qualifier (the percentage or organic ingredients in the product).

### Organic

#### **95%-100% Organic Ingredients**

#### **MUST:**

- Be at least 95% organic ingredients (excluding added water and salt).
- All agricultural ingredients must be organic unless they are not commercially available in organic form.
- Identify all organic ingredients as “organic” on the ingredient statement.

- Include the statement “Certified Organic by Washington State Department of Agriculture.” This statement must be located directly adjacent to the name of the manufacture or distributor of the product.
- All non-agricultural ingredients must be on the National List (NOP 205.605) and be used in accordance with any annotations on the National List.

**OPTIONAL:**

- Display the percentage of organic ingredients.
- The USDA Organic Seal in the colors set forth by the National Organic Program.
- The WSDA Organic Seal (WSDA has separate Producer, Handler and Processor seals – be sure the correct one is used).

**Made with Organic Ingredients**  
*70%-95% Organic Ingredients*

**MUST:**

- Be 70% or more organic ingredients
- Indicate all ingredients as organic on the ingredient panel.
- Include the statement “Certified Organic by Washington State Department of Agriculture.” This statement must be located directly adjacent to the name of the manufacture or distributor of the product.
- Non organic ingredients must not be produced using prohibited practices (Genetically Modified, Sewage Sludge, Ionizing Radiation).

**MUST NOT:**

- Use the USDA Seal

**OPTIONAL:**

- Indicate the % of organic ingredients.
- The WSDA Organic seal (WSDA has separate Producer, Handler and Processor seals – be sure the correct one is used).
- The statement “Made with Organic (ingredients or food groups). The statement may not list more than three ingredients or three food groups.

**Organic Claims in Information Panel Only**  
*Less than 70% Organic Ingredients*

**MUST:**

- Identify organic ingredients as “organic” in the ingredient statement if the % of organic ingredients is displayed in the information panel.

**MUST NOT:**

- Be labeled as organic on the principal display panel.
- Use the USDA Seal.
- Use the WSDA Seal.

**OPTIONAL:**

- Indicate the % of organic ingredients on the information panel.
- Products may have more than 70% organic ingredients.
- If all organic claims are limited to the information panel, the product is not required to be certified under the National Organic Program.