

Transitioning Producer “Mentee” Agreement – Texas TOPP

Name of Transitioning Producer (Mentee): _____

Program Overview

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) supports producers who want to transition to organic farming through the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). This includes one-on-one mentorship, technical support, workshops, field days, and other resources as available.

By signing this form, you agree to participate in the Texas TOPP Mentorship Program as a transitioning producer ("mentee").

Expectations for Mentees

As a mentee, you:

- Plan to become certified organic in the near future.
- Can commit to the time needed for the mentorship, including:
 - Regular communication with your mentor.
 - Hosting your mentor for a visit to your farm depending on location. Texas is a big state!
 - Visiting your mentor's farm if possible.
- Work to develop and follow a communication plan with your mentor.

Your Commitment During the Mentorship Year

- Complete 40 hours of mentorship over 12 months.
- Participation can include:
 - Mentor visits (to and from farms, when possible or by Zoom)
 - Regular check-ins (as decided in your communication plan),
 - At least one organic event with your mentor if held a reasonable distance away or by Zoom.
- Develop or begin an Organic System Plan (OSP).
- Take part in mentorship evaluations.
- Let Texas TOPP know as soon as possible if any issue comes up.
- Attend one organic transition educational event (online or in-person).
- Receive a \$500 stipend to help with travel and education costs.

Privacy and Confidentiality

You agree to keep private any personal or sensitive information shared by your mentor during the mentorship. You will not share this information with others unless your mentor and Texas TOPP give written permission.

Agreement Terms

This agreement is valid for 1 year after both parties sign it. Texas TOPP or your mentor may end the agreement early by giving 30 days' written notice.

Sharing Your Story and Photos

You may choose to allow Texas TOPP to share your story or photo to promote the program. Texas TOPP will try to inform you before doing so.

Initial here if you give consent: _____

Date: _____

Mentee Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Check payable to (if different): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Return this form to Bob Whitney – bob.whitney@ag.tamu.edu

Welcome to organic agriculture in Texas!

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program

