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Worksheet 2T.6: How Close Am I to Processing Organically? (<http://misadocuments.info/2T.6HowCloseToOrganicProcessing.pdf>)

HOW CLOSE AM I TO PROCESSING ORGANICALLY?

Complete this worksheet for each product that you process. (Processing refers to livestock slaughter, cooking, baking, heating, curing, canning, drying, mixing, grinding, churning, separating, extracting, cutting, fermenting, distilling, preserving, dehydrating, freezing and the repackaging of bulk foods into smaller containers for resale.) Check the appropriate box to indicate if you are generally using conventional or organic management for each processing practice. Use the notes section to identify specific practices, inputs and equipment that you need to become certified organic; also identify suppliers for NOP-approved inputs. Next, answer the processing questions listed. This is meant to provide a general snapshot of your current processing status; the more check marks you have in the organic management column, the closer you are to becoming certified.

Processing Practice Area	Manage/Source Conventionally	Manage/Source Organically	Notes
Source of raw inputs and ingredients			
Transportation and storage of inputs and ingredients			
Cleaning and sanitation			
Processing facility			
Pest management			

continued →

TASK 2

1. Do you have access to a processing facility that is equipped for processing your product?

2. If you use water as an ingredient or to wash inputs and equipment, have you verified that the water meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards?

3. Do you obtain organic certificates from each input supplier if you are already sourcing organic ingredients? These are required for certification.

4. Do you have a product flow chart that tracks the movement of all ingredients and products?

5. Do you have a plan for proper labeling of finished products (e.g., “100 percent organic,” “organic,” “made with organic ingredients”)?

NEED HELP ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS?

Check out the following publication:

Coleman, P. November 2012. Guide for Organic Processors. ATTRA and USDA - Agricultural Marketing Service.

<https://attra.ncat.org/organic.html>.