## Section D. Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrient Management

Organic standards require producers to implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of the soil and minimize erosion.

Organic standards also require producers to manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through crop rotations, cover crops, and applications of plant and animal material. Additionally, you must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter while minimizing contamination of crops, soil, and water.

1. How do you monitor soil health, including soil organic matter?

- [ ] Soil testing
- [ ] Plant tissue testing
- [ ] Observation of soil
- [ ] Observation of plant health
- [ ] Crop quality
- [ ] Other (please specify):
- [ ] Microbiologic testing
- [ ] Crop yields

1a. How often you take these tests or make these observations?

2. How do you manage soil health?

- [ ] Annual crop rotation
- [ ] Cover crops
- [ ] Fallow rotations
- [ ] Rock minerals
- [ ] Foliar fertilizers
- [ ] Animal manure
- [ ] Green manure
- [ ] Incorporate crop/pruning residues
- [ ] Compost
- [ ] Other (please specify):
- [ ] Compost tea
- [ ] Soil inoculants
- [ ] Mulching
- [ ] Conservation cover

3. Check all of the tillage practices used on your farm to manage soil fertility.

- [ ] No till
- [ ] Reduced till
- [ ] Seasonal till
- [ ] Ridge till
- [ ] Contour farming
- [ ] Moisture monitoring prior to tillage
- [ ] Other (please specify):
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4. Do you have any micronutrient soil deficiencies on your farm?  
   □ Yes  □ No

   4a. If yes, describe or list the soil deficiencies present.

   4b. Describe how you monitor micronutrient deficiencies. Indicate the types of records maintained
       (i.e. recommendations from a crop advisor, soil or tissue analysis, regional deficiency, or visual observations).

Tip! You must have documented deficiencies before using synthetic micronutrients [NOS 205.601(j)(6)]. List all fertility
materials that you plan to use in the Materials Inventory.

Compost

5. Do you use compost, compost tea or vermicompost that is not registered with WSDA or OMRI for
   organic crop production?  
   □ Yes  □ No

   5a. If yes, does the product contain manure?  
       □ Yes  □ No

      i. If yes, will it be applied to crops intended for human consumption?  
         □ Yes  □ No

         1. If yes, will it be applied to crops where the harvestable portion of the crop comes into contact with the soil?  
            □ Yes  □ No

         □ Less than 90 days prior to harvest
         □ Between 90 and 120 days prior to harvest
         □ More than 120 days prior to harvest

   5b. If yes, describe how the composting process and recordkeeping complies with the USDA organic regulations
       (NOS 205.203).

Tip! You must maintain records and make records available for your inspector:
   ✔ Verifying compost production meets USDA organic standards section 205.203(c)(2).
   ✔ Verifying that vermicompost production meets USDA organic guidance National Organic Policy 5021.
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6. Do you use compost tea?
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

6a. If yes, how do you apply compost tea?
   - [ ] Foliar  [ ] Soil  [ ] Other (please specify):

   **Tip!** List all feed stocks and purchased compost products in the Materials Inventory.

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**Manure**

7. Do you plan to use raw, aged, liquid or digested animal manure?
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

7a. If yes, will it be applied to crops intended for human consumption?
   - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

   i. If yes, will it be applied to crops where the harvestable portion of the crop comes into contact with the soil?
      - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

      - [ ] Less than 90 days prior to harvest
      - [ ] Between 90 and 120 days prior to harvest
      - [ ] More than 120 days prior to harvest

   ii. If yes, when will the product be applied?
      - [ ] Between 90 and 120 days prior to harvest
      - [ ] More than 120 days prior to harvest

   **Tip!** Animal manure that is not composted to NOS 205.203 requirements, must be:
   - [✓] Applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption; or
   - [✓] Incorporated into the soil 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with soil surface or soil particles; or
   - [✓] Incorporated into the soil 90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact with soil surface or soil particles

You must maintain records verifying application dates of non-composted animal manure products and crop harvest dates.