



# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## OVERVIEW

### THERE ARE 3 LABELING CATEGORIES IN USDA ORGANIC

Depending on their contents, certified organic products might be labeled:

- **100% ORGANIC**
- **ORGANIC**
- **MADE WITH ORGANIC** [Specific Ingredients]

### PARTS OF THE PACKAGE

The organic regulations reference two types of label “panels:”

- **PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL** – the front of the package
- **INFORMATION PANEL** – usually the back or side of the package, this is the part of the retail package that includes the ingredient list and other product information, such as your farm or company name and contact information

### USDA SEAL AND CERTIFIER LOGO USE

If your product falls in either the “100% Organic” or the “Organic” category and is certified, you may choose to use the USDA organic seal on your label. Use one of these approved versions:

You can download either version directly from the NOP website [HERE](#).

You can put the USDA organic seal anywhere on your label or package.



**Black** – Must be on a white or transparent background.



**Color** – Must be on a white background using the following colors from the Pantone Color Matching System (PMS):  
Brown = PMS 175,  
Green = PMS 348

### OEFFA CERTIFICATION LOGO

You may also use your organic certifier’s logo on your package. If you are using both the USDA seal and your certifier’s logo on your label, the certifier’s logo cannot be larger or displayed “more prominently” than the USDA seal.

If you are certified by OEFFA and using the OEFFA Certified Organic logo, if you can read the words “OEFFA Certified Organic” on the logo, you may choose to use it as your Certified Organic By (COB) statement.



If you are using it for this purpose, it must go directly below your name, or a distributor’s name, and/or contact information on the information panel of your label. Otherwise, you can put the logo anywhere on your label or package.

Please contact us if you would like to use the OEFFA Certification logo.

### NONRETAIL LABELS – BULK/WHOLESALE

Bulk or wholesale products must be labeled with the production lot number, shipping ID, or other unique information that links to handling records, so the product is traceable through production and handling. Labels must also identify the product as organic.

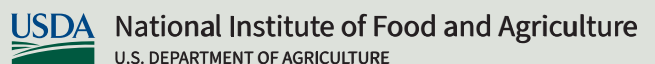
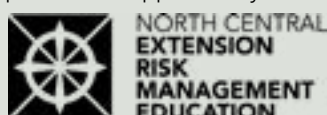
The labeling claim category (e.g. 100% Organic) and COB statement on nonretail labels is helpful for other handlers in the supply chain in maintaining organic integrity. You may also choose to include the USDA organic seal and/or the certifier’s logo.

### OTHER LABEL CLAIMS (UNRELATED TO ORGANICS)

You may make additional label claims, provided such claims are truthful and do not violate the NOP regulations or other federal or state labeling regulations.

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# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## 100% ORGANIC

- **Each ingredient** (excluding water and salt) **must be certified as 100% organic**
- **Any processing aid used to manufacture the product must be certified organic**

This means the product cannot contain any nonagricultural (non-certifiable) ingredients such as baking soda or citric acid. At no point can the product be processed with a nonorganic substance. To confirm an ingredient is 100% organic, look for the ingredient to be listed as "100% Organic" on the supplier's organic certificate.

### RETAIL PRODUCT LABEL REQUIREMENTS:

- The statement, "Certified organic by [certification agency]" must appear **directly below** the distributor or certified operation's name and/or contact information on the Information Panel.
  - Each organic ingredient must be identified in the ingredient list.
    - The word "organic" should appear before each organic ingredient.
- OR
- An asterisk (\*) should appear next to each organic ingredient and a key showing the asterisk means the ingredient is "organic" should be below the list.

Example Information Panel with correct COB statement:

**100% Organic Dried Cranberries**

**Ingredients:** Organic Dried Cranberries.

Sample Business  
123 Sample Drive  
Sample, OH 55555

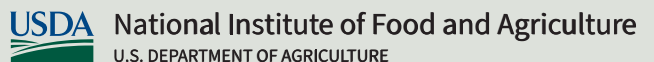
*Certified Organic By OEFFA*

Labels may use the USDA organic seal and/or certification agency logo, but no seal is required.



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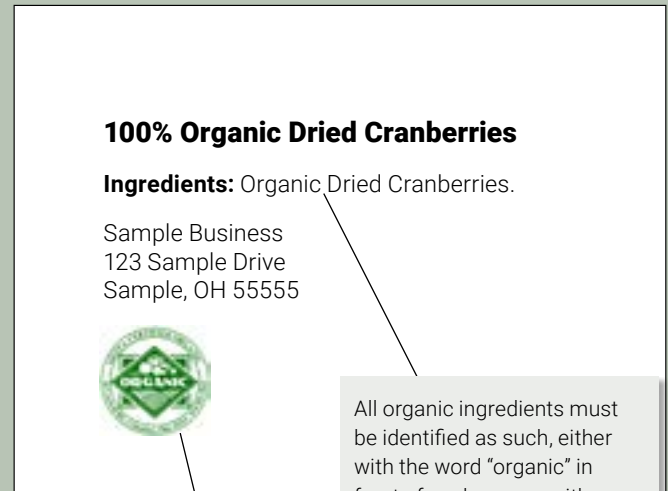


# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## 100% ORGANIC LABEL EXAMPLES



PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL



INFORMATION PANEL

All organic ingredients must be identified as such, either with the word "organic" in front of each one, or with an asterisk which refers to "Organic" written underneath.



PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL AND INFORMATION PANEL COMBINED

The statement, "Certified organic by [certification agency]" must appear directly below the distributor or certified operation's name and/or contact information on the Information Panel.

The certifier logo can also be utilized in place of the COB.

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# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## ORGANIC (≥95%)

- **The product must contain at least 95% certified organic ingredients** (excluding water and salt)
  - **The remaining ingredients must be either:**
    - nonagricultural substances from the list of allowed materials under **NOP §205.605** (such as ascorbic acid)
- OR
- nonorganic agricultural substances from the list of allowed materials under **NOP §205.606** (such as gelatin)

In order to use a nonorganic ingredient from §205.606, first show the ingredient is not commercially available in organic form by conducting and documenting a search for it. To search, check at least three suppliers that carry organic inputs to make a good faith effort to find the organic ingredient in the quality, quantity, and form you need it. Be sure to keep a [record of your search](#).

### RETAIL PRODUCT LABEL REQUIREMENTS:

- The statement, “Certified organic by [certification agency]” must appear **directly below** the distributor or certified operation’s name and/or contact information on the Information Panel.
  - Each organic ingredient must be identified in the ingredient list.
    - The word “organic” should appear before each organic ingredient.
- OR
- An asterisk (\*) should appear next to each organic ingredient and a key showing the asterisk means the ingredient is “organic” should be below the list.

Example Ingredient List:

### Organic Soup Mix

**Ingredients:** Great Northern Beans\*, Dehydrated Carrots\*, Thyme\*, Rosemary\*, Turkish Bay Leaves.

\*Organic

You **may** choose to show the specific percentage of organic ingredients in the product (e.g., 97% organic ingredients.)

The whole statement must be:

- the same size, color, and style

AND

- half the size or less of the largest type size on the label panel (e.g., 10-point font or smaller if your largest type size is 20-point font).

## ORGANIC SOUP MIX

CONTAINS 98% ORGANIC INGREDIENTS

Labels may use the USDA organic seal and/or certification agency logo, but no seal is required.



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# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## ORGANIC (≥95%) LABEL EXAMPLES

### ORGANIC (≥95%)

**LOGO**

**Organic Soup Mix**  
Contains 98% organic ingredients





PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL

You **may** choose to show the specific percentage of organic ingredients in the product.

The whole statement must be:

- the same size, color, and style

AND

- half the size or less of the largest type size on the label panel (e.g., 10-point font or smaller if your largest type size is 20-point font).

All organic ingredients must be identified as such, either with the word "organic" in front of each one, or with an asterisk which refers to "Organic" written underneath.

**Ingredients:** Beans\*, Dehydrated Carrots\*, Thyme\*, Rosemary\*, Turkish Bay Leaves.

\*Organic

PACKED IN THE USA

DISTRIBUTED BY: Sample Business  
123 Sample Drive, Sample, OH 55555

*Certified Organic by OEFFA*

The statement, "Certified organic by [certification agency]" must appear directly below the distributor or certified operation's name and/or contact information on the Information Panel.

This statement is commonly called the "**COB**" (Certified Organic By) statement.

The certifier logo can also be utilized in place of the COB.

INFORMATION PANEL



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# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## MADE WITH ORGANIC [ SPECIFIC INGREDIENTS ] (≥70%)

- **The product must contain at least 70% certified organic ingredients** (excluding water and salt)
  - **The remaining ingredients may be:**
    - nonagricultural substances from the list of allowed materials under **NOP §205.605** (such as ascorbic acid)
- OR
- nonorganic agricultural substances that have not been produced using Excluded Methods (i.e. genetic modification), ionizing radiation, or sewage sludge.

### The product cannot be labeled generally as "Made With Organic Ingredients."

The words, "**Made With Organic...**" must be followed by:

- Up to three organic ingredients in the product  
*oats, rice, and raisins*

OR

- Up to three organic food groups in the product  
*grain, dairy, and meat*

All named ingredients in the "**Made With Organic...**" statement must be organic.

All words in the "**Made With Organic...**" statement must be:

- the same size, color, and style
- AND
- half the size or less of the largest type size on the label panel

The same is true for an organic ingredient percentage statement.

### RETAIL PRODUCT LABEL REQUIREMENTS:

- The statement, "Certified organic by [certification agency]" must appear **directly below** the distributor or certified operation's name and/or contact information on the Information Panel.
  - Each organic ingredient must be identified in the ingredient list.
    - The word "organic" should appear before each organic ingredient.
- OR
- An asterisk (\*) should appear next to each organic ingredient and a key showing the asterisk means the ingredient is "organic" should be below the list.

The product may include the certification agency's logo.

**The USDA seal is not allowed.**



## Our Soup Mix

MADE WITH ORGANIC BEEF STOCK

**Ingredients:** Concentrated Beef Stock\*, Caramel Color\*, Beef flavor\*, Sea Salt, Yeast Extract, Carrot Juice Concentrate\*.

\*Organic

Sample Business  
123 Sample Drive  
Sample, OH 55555

*Certified Organic By OEFFA*

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# ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

## MADE WITH ORGANIC (≥70%) LABEL EXAMPLES

**LOGO**

**PRODUCT**

MADE WITH ORGANIC BASIL

**Ingredients:** Concentrated Beef Stock\*, Caramel Color\*, Beef flavor\*, Sea Salt, Yeast Extract, Carrot Juice Concentrate\*, Basil\*.

\*Organic

Made by Sample Business  
123 Sample Drive, Sample, OH 55555

*Certified Organic By OEFFA*

NET WT: 2 OZ (56 G)

REFRIGERATE  
AFTER OPENING

All organic ingredients must be identified as such, either with the word "organic" in front of each one, or with an asterisk which refers to "Organic" written underneath.

"Certified Organic By [Agency]" must appear below the information identifying the final handler or distributor of the product.

As long as you can read the words "OEFFA Certified Organic" on the logo, you may choose to use it as your COB.



### INFORMATION PANEL

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