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.

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.

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

This material is based upon work supported by USDA-NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28586
• 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.
Organic Basil

Ingredients:
Organic Basil

Distributed by Sample Business

123 Sample Drive
Sample, OH 55555

Phone: [website URL]

Certified Organic by OEFFA

100% ORGANIC Dried Cranberries

Ingredients:
Organic Dried Cranberries

Sample Business
123 Sample Drive
Sample, OH 55555

Phone: [website URL]

Certified Organic by OEFFA

100% Organic Dried Cranberries

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.

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.

100% ORGANIC LABEL EXAMPLES
• 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.
ORGANIC LABELING FACT SHEET

ORGANIC (≥95%) LABEL EXAMPLES

ORGANIC (≥95%)

LOGO

Organic Soup Mix
Contains 98% organic ingredients

Includes USDA Organic logo

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).


*Organic

PACKED IN THE USA

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

Certified Organic by OEFFA

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.

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

OEFFA Certification • 41 Croswell Rd, Columbus, OH 43214 • oeffa.org • (614) 421-2022

This material is based upon work supported by USDA-NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28586
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


*Organic

Sample Business
123 Sample Drive
Sample, OH 55555

Certified Organic By OEFFA

This material is based upon work supported by USDA-NIFA under Award Number 2018-70027-28586
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.

In this example:

**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

"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.