



## Georgia Crop Improvement Association Organic Certification Program

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Date: November 26, 2018  
To: GCIA Organic Clients  
From: Terry Hollifield  
Subject: Organic Fee Changes

Beginning January 1, 2019, the attached fee schedule will become effective. Not all fees have increased but please note those changes that relate to your enterprises, particularly assessment fees for farms and the adjustment of the Maximum Annual Assessment fee for Livestock, Greenhouses, Hydroponic, Aquaponic, and Processor/Handlers.

Assessment fees for first time applicants (crop, livestock, greenhouse, hydroponic, aquaponic, processor/handler) will be assessed for the sales period beginning on the date your organic certificate is issued until your renewal audit is conducted.

Assessment fees for applicants renewing their certification (crop, livestock, greenhouse, hydroponic, aquaponic, processor/handler) will be assessed for the sales period beginning with the renewal audit date to the next renewal audit date.

Sincerely,

Terry Hollifield  
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## **GCIA Organic Certification Program Fee Schedule (effective 1/1/19)**

### **Organic Crop Operation (Grower/Producer)**

- \$850.00 Initial Administration Fee with farms in excess of 20 acres add \$5.00 per acre
- \$800.00 Annual Renewal Administration Fee with farms in excess of 20 acres add \$5.00 per acre
- Assessments calculations:
  - Assessment of 0.5% (one-half of one percent) of gross organic sales
  - Minimum Annual Assessment of \$100; Maximum Annual Assessment of \$20,000.00
- \$85.00 Surcharge\*

### **Organic Greenhouse, Hydroponic, Aquaponic Operations**

- \$750.00 Initial Administration Fee
- \$700.00 Annual Renewal Administration
- Assessments calculations:
  - Assessment of 0.5% (one-half of one percent) of gross organic sales
  - Minimum Annual Assessment of \$100; Maximum Annual Assessment of \$20,000.00
- \$85.00 Surcharge\*

### **Organic Livestock/Forage Operation**

- \$850.00 Initial Administration Fee with farms in excess of 500 acres add \$1.00 per acre
- \$800.00 Annual Renewal Administration Fee with farms in excess of 500 acres add \$1.00 per acre
- Assessments calculations:
  - Assessment of 0.5% (one-half of one percent) of gross organic sales
  - Minimum Annual Assessment of \$100; Maximum Annual Assessment of \$20,000.00
- \$85.00 Surcharge\*

### **Organic Processor/Handler Operation**

- \$750.00 Initial Administration Fee
- \$700.00 Annual Renewal Administration Fee
- Assessment calculations:
  - 0.5% (one-half of one percent) of gross organic sales minus cost of raw organic product
  - Minimum Annual Assessment of \$200.00; Maximum Annual Assessment of \$20,000.00
- Custom processing/handling (providing a service for a fee) will be assessed at the rate of 0.5% (one half of one percent of fee charged to customer)
- \$85.00 Surcharge\*

\* Georgia Crop Improvement Association's surcharge will be \$85.00 for each application, initial and renewals, to cover: (1) The NOP requires that 5% of all clients be tested for residue compliance. (2) The NOP requires that 5% of all clients receive an unannounced inspection. (3) The NOP requires that GCIAOCP be audited by the USDA/AMS every 30 months for compliance to NOP Rules and Regulations.

An estimate of fees charged will be provided to each applicant prior to inspection.

Renewal applications are due in the GCIA office on the anniversary date of the initial inspection.

### **OTHER CHARGES**

**Label Reviews:** A label review fee of \$50.00 per hour will be assessed for any additional products and/or label revisions during the year. *(Label Review Fees do not apply at the time of initial certification or the certification renewal process.)*

**Re-inspections:** Re-inspections will be charged at the rate of \$50.00 per hour

**Transfer Fee:** Certification transfer fee of \$25.00

**Travel:** Mileage will be charged to the applicant at the prevailing IRS rate when application is made. All other travel expenses such as lodging, meals and/or airfare will be charged to the applicant if the operation being inspected requires any such expense to be incurred by GCIAOCP.

**Certification Fee Refund Policy:** Certification fees are non-refundable except in the following instance – The withdrawal of initial application prior to the onsite inspection. A processing fee of \$50.00 will be retained by GCIAOCP. Refunds will be made after application has been withdrawn.

Interest of 1.5% per month will be charged on all past due accounts and certification will be suspended 60 days after failure to pay. The Georgia Department of Agriculture and the USDA National Organic Program will be notified of suspension.

**THE GCIAOCP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AUDIT SALES RECORDS ON ALL MENTIONED CATEGORIES.**

Revised 11/2018