



The Department of Plant Industry (DPI) is seeking a skilled individual to join our organic certification team. DPI is a USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Accredited Certifier tasked to maintain and ensure compliance with the NOP standards in South Carolina. As part of our team, the **Organic Certification Specialist** (OCS) will conduct on-site inspections/audits and review Organic System Plans to verify compliance. The OCS will conduct investigations, review material inputs, and collect pesticide residue samples. Certification staff receive extensive training to gain and maintain competency with the NOP standards and investigative processes. This position requires in-state travel and participation in statewide inspections.

Common duties and projects include:

- Review organic production or handling system plans to verify that they accurately reflect practices and comply with the NOP regulations
- Identify areas of concern through file review and inspection
- Verify that prohibited substances are not in use and that restricted-use materials meet the labeled restrictions
- Conduct on-site inspections for both new and certified operations that produce or handle organic products to determine compliance with the NOP and whether to approve the request for certification or whether the certification of the operation should continue
- Verify the Organic System Plan on location during inspections for accuracy of the information disclosed and compliance
- Pull compliance samples for residue testing
- Assisting with annual NOP reports and cooperative agreement reporting requirements
- Conduct unannounced inspections to ensure compliance with the NOP standards
- Complete reports such as inspection briefing, inspection report, exit interview, and other forms necessary for certification activities
- Participate in outreach events to educate the public about Organic Certification
- Complete International Organic Inspector Association (IOIA) training in the relevant scope to be inspected and maintain training in the areas of accreditation
- Conduct investigations of noncompliance, organic integrity issues, and reports of fraud
- Serve on appropriate committees and attend meetings for University, DPI, regional, or national organizations

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**REGULATORY SERVICES**

**Department of Plant Industry**

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