

# Organic labeling

**W**hen selling organics, it's important to get the labeling right. Organic labeling is regulated by federal law, so make sure you know the rules and check to make sure your product is labeled correctly. There are several levels of organic labeling set by the USDA.



## Certified organic

Produce can be labeled “certified organic” if it comes from a producer that can prove that it has been organically certified by a USDA-approved certifier. This produce can contain the words “certified organic” or the USDA organic seal on its label.

## 100% organic

Products can be labeled 100% organic if all ingredients are certified organic, all processing aids are organic and the label states the name of the certifying agent in the information panel. These products can bear the words “100% organic” and can carry the USDA organic seal.

## Organic

Items bearing the organic label must contain only certified organic agricultural items. Five percent of the ingredients may be non-organic, but they must be on the national list of allowed items. These labels must include the name of the certifying agent in the information panel. These labels can bear the word “organic” and may use the USDA organic seal.

## Made with Organic

Produce products carrying the “Made with” label must meet the following requirements: At least 70% of the product must be made with certified organic ingredients, the remaining ingredients cannot use production methods excluded by the USDA, non-agricultural products must be on the national list of allowed items, and product labels need to include the name of the certifying agent in the information panel. These labels can carry the words “Made with organic” (up to three ingredients or ingredient categories), but they cannot carry the USDA organic seal. The label also cannot carry the words “Made with organic ingredients.” **pmg**

Source: USDA