



# **The Organic System Plan**

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# Objectives

- What is an Organic System Plan?
- Why is it important?
- How can you prepare one?
- How does it help save time on inspection?



# What Goes in a System Plan (OSP) from the Regulation 205.201

- Description of **practices and procedures**
- A list of each substance to be used as **inputs**
- Description of **monitoring practices**
- Description of **recordkeeping system**
- Description of management **practices and physical barriers to prevent contamination and commingling.**



# What Goes in a System Plan

## **Crop, Livestock, Handling or Wildcrop**

- OSP is specific to the scope.
- Maps of all fields to be certified.
- Land history for all fields to be certified (inputs, crops, dates of prohibited substances.
- List of all inputs.
- List of seeds.
- Livestock List,if applying for livestock scope.

You might be asked to provide labels of inputs, water tests, or other items deemed essential by the certifier.

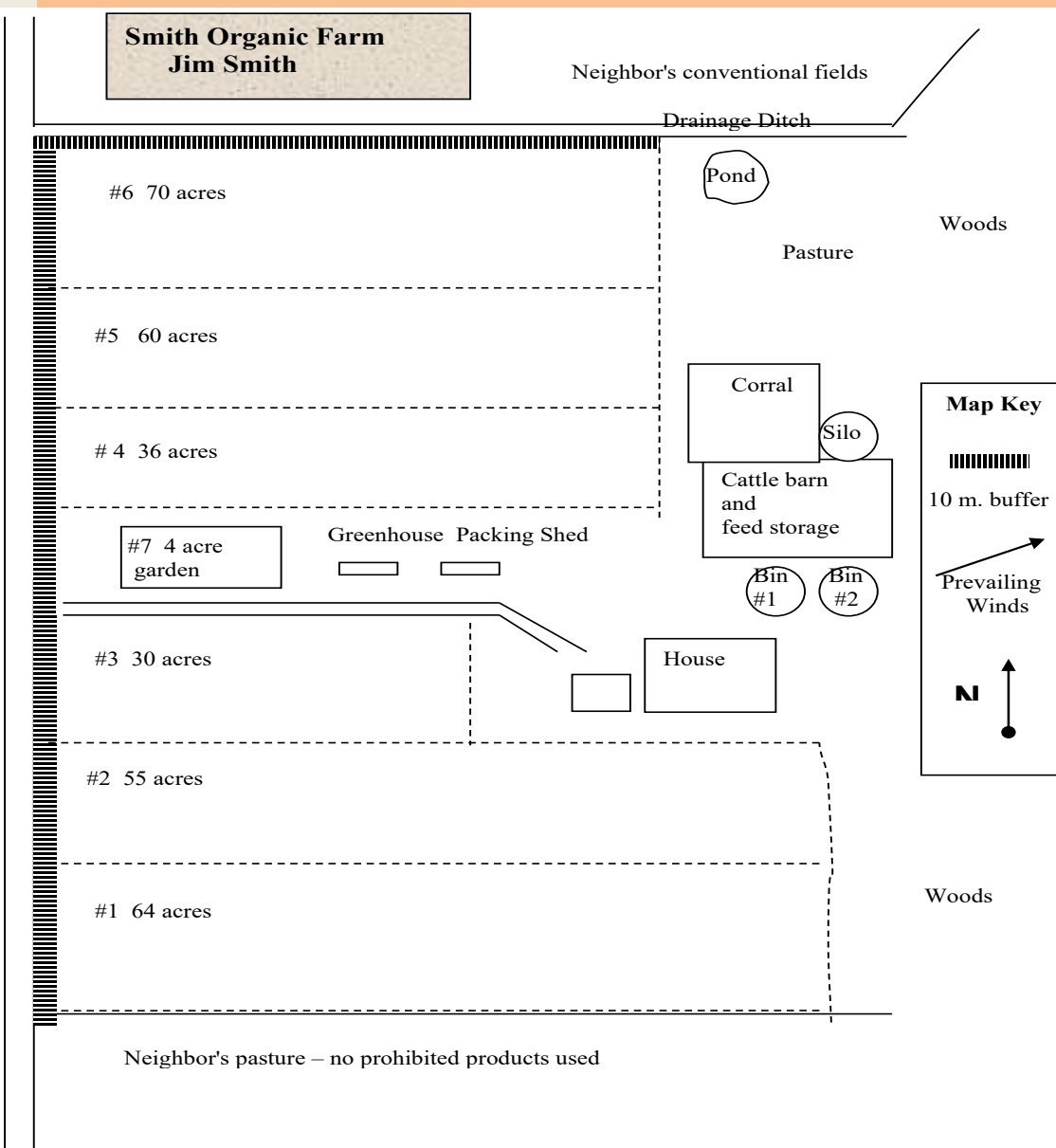


# Maps

- Fields
  - Acres
  - Unique field names
  - Buffers
  - Legal land description
- Livestock
  - Shade
  - Fences
  - Water sources
- Bin maps



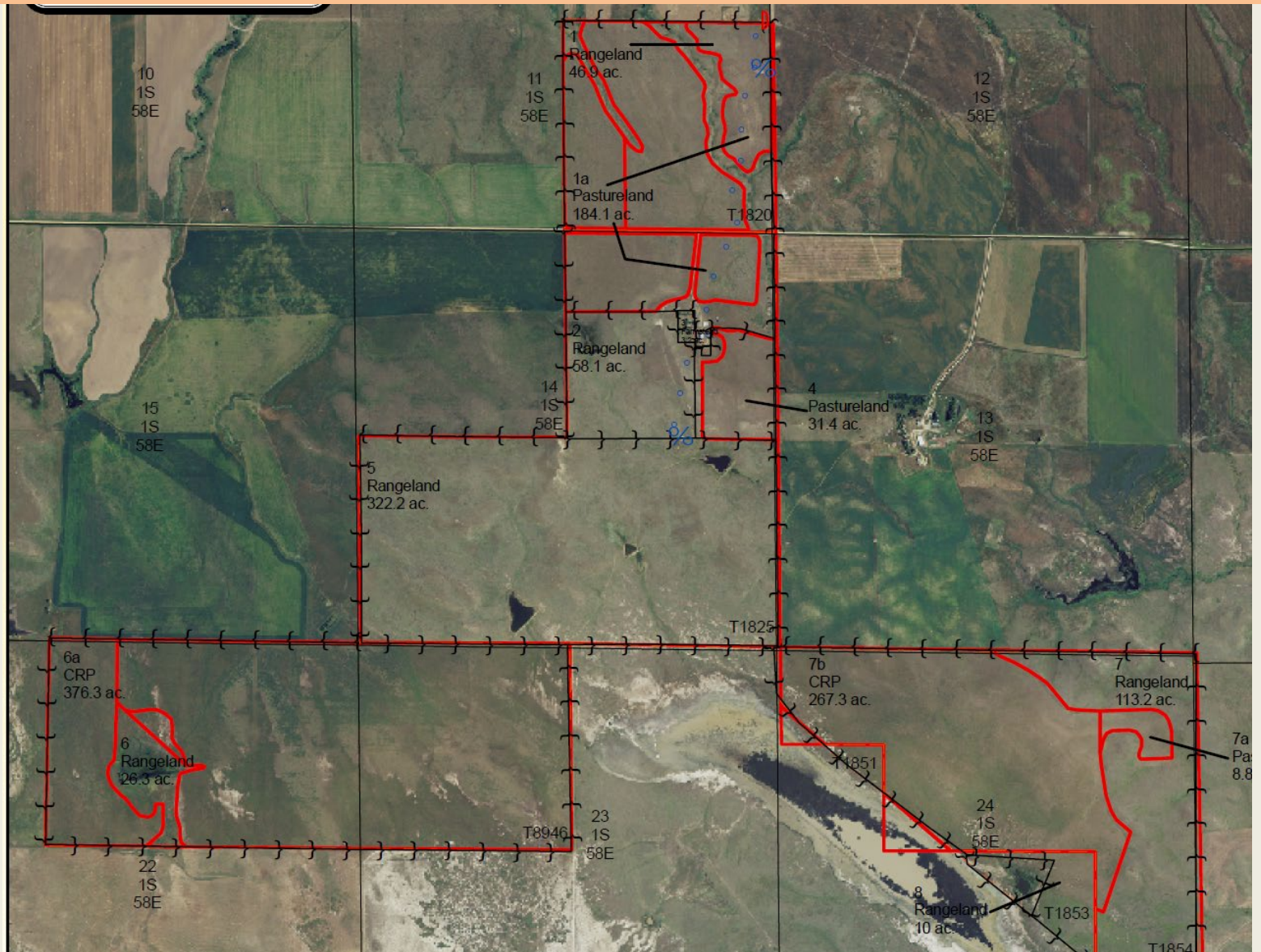
# Maps







# Maps









# Field History/Land Application

## FIELD HISTORY SHEET

With this type of field history sheet, the inspector can review crop rotation and inputs at the same time. The producer can make copies and fill in each year rather than rewriting the 3-year history for their certification application. Can you identify any deficiencies with this field history sheet? See answer<sup>1</sup>.

Code: O = Organic; T = In Transition/Conversion to Organic; C = Conventional

Producer Name      Jim Smith

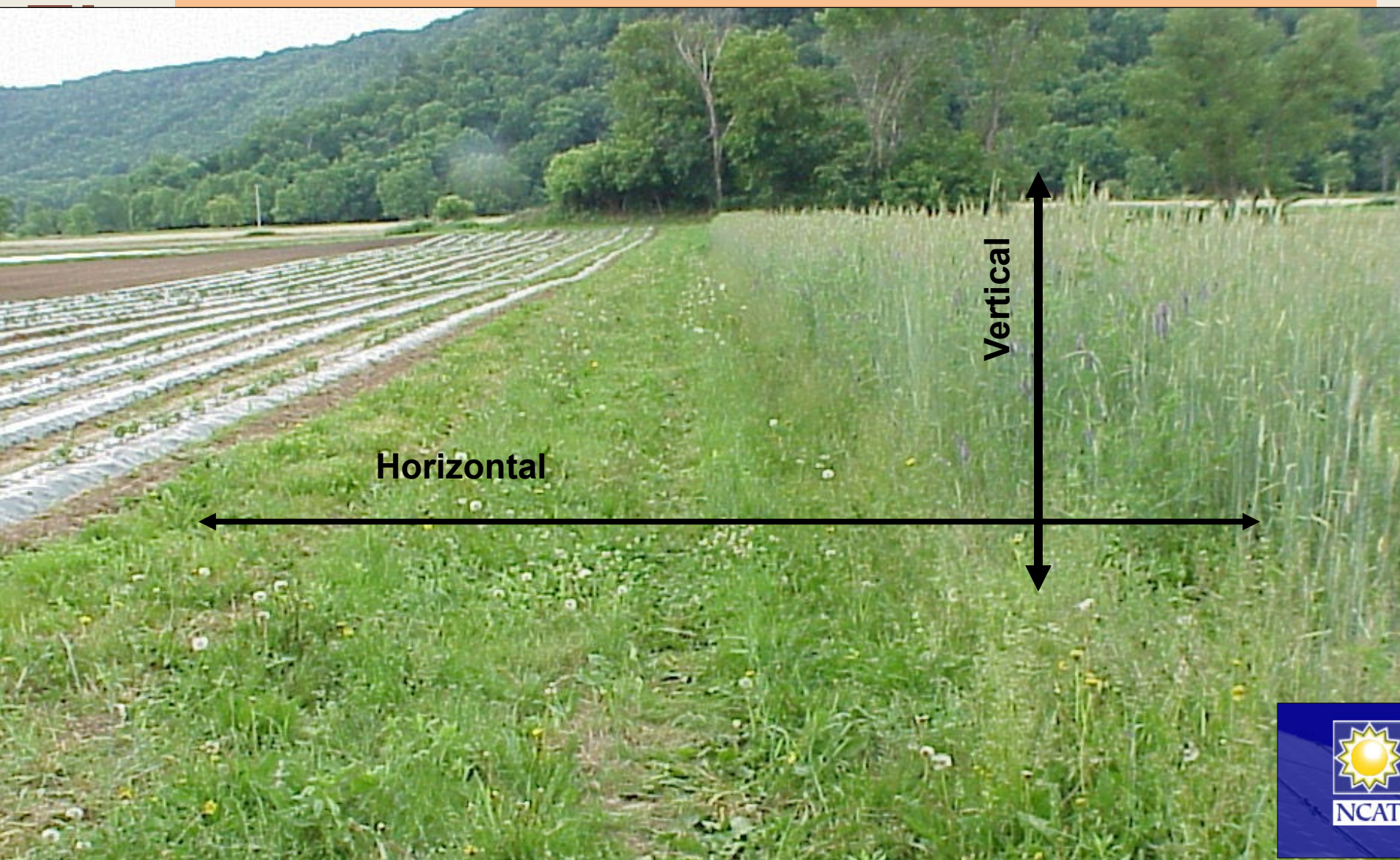
2000 Code	Field No.	Acres /Hect	1997		1998		1999		2000	
			Crop	Inputs	Crop	Inputs	Crop	Inputs	Crop	Inputs
O	1	64	Oats	Alfalfa hay seeded	Hay	Manure	Pasture <sup>2</sup>	Manure	Vinton Soybeans	Rye will be planted 10/00
T	2	55	Corn	Urea	Corn	Urea	Oats	Alfalfa hay seeded	Hay	Manure 8/00; 1 T/ac.; Hi-calcium lime 9/99
O	3	30	Hay	Manure; Hi calcium lime	Pasture	Manure by cows	Vinton Soybeans	Rye 10/99	Corn	Manure 9/99 2T/ac
O	4	36	Hay	Same	Pasture	Manure by cows	Vinton Soybeans	Rye 10/99	Corn	Manure 9/99 2T/ac
O	5	60	Corn	Urea	Oats	Alfalfa hay seeded	Hay	Manure 1T/ac. Hi calcium lime	Pasture	Manure by cows
O	6	70	Pasture	Manure by cows	Vinton Soybeans	Rye 10/98	Corn	Manure 9/98 2T/ac	Oats	Alfalfa hay seeded
O	7	4.0	Vegetables <sup>3</sup>	Compost Rye	Vegetables	Compost 4/98 Rye 10/98	Vegetables	Compost 4/99 Rye 10/99	Vegetables	Compost 4/00 Rye 10/00

<sup>1</sup> Some input entries do not also record rate and date of application.

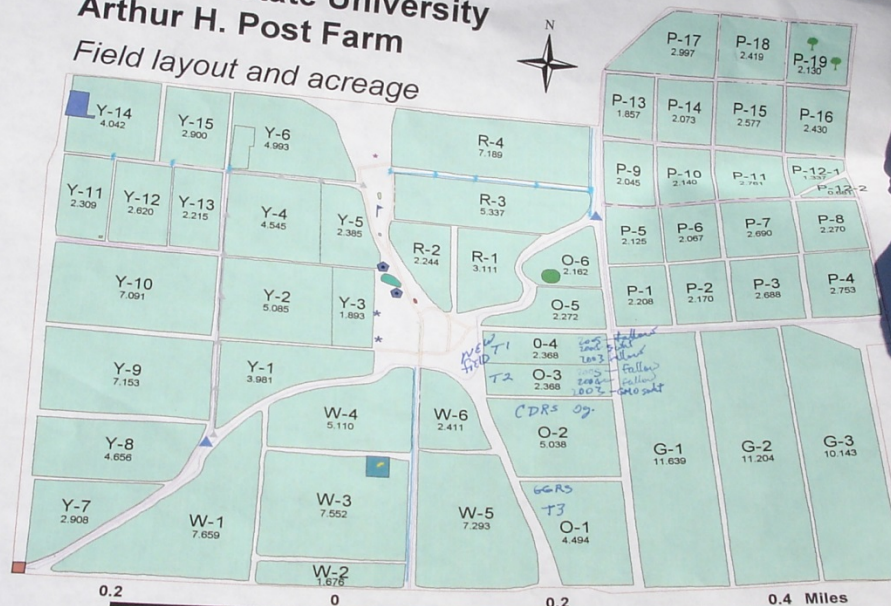
<sup>2</sup> Pasture is rotational cropped



# Buffers











# How will you manage weeds?

- Heavier planting
- Later planting
- Pre-working
- Cross-planting
- Harrowing/rotary hoeing
- Vinegar
- Flaming
- Grazing
- Mulching





# How will you manage fertility?

- Rotation
- Green manures
- Legumes in rotation
- Grazing livestock
- Interplanting
- Amendments
- Manure
- Micronutrients
- Reduced tillage
- Mulch





# How will you source your seeds?

- Raise your own?
- Purchase organic seed?
- Establish commercial non-availability
- On-farm mobile cleaners







# What inputs will you use?

- Get approval before use!
- Don't forget legume inoculants, seed coatings, animal manure, and diatomaceous earth.
- Provide brand name, source, where it will be used.





# Seed: Commercial Availability

# Manure: Interval between application and harvest





# What equipment will you use?

- Is it dedicated to organic production?
- If not, what is the process to protect integrity of organic crops from cross contamination?
- Are cleanout procedures documented?







# All labels you plan to use





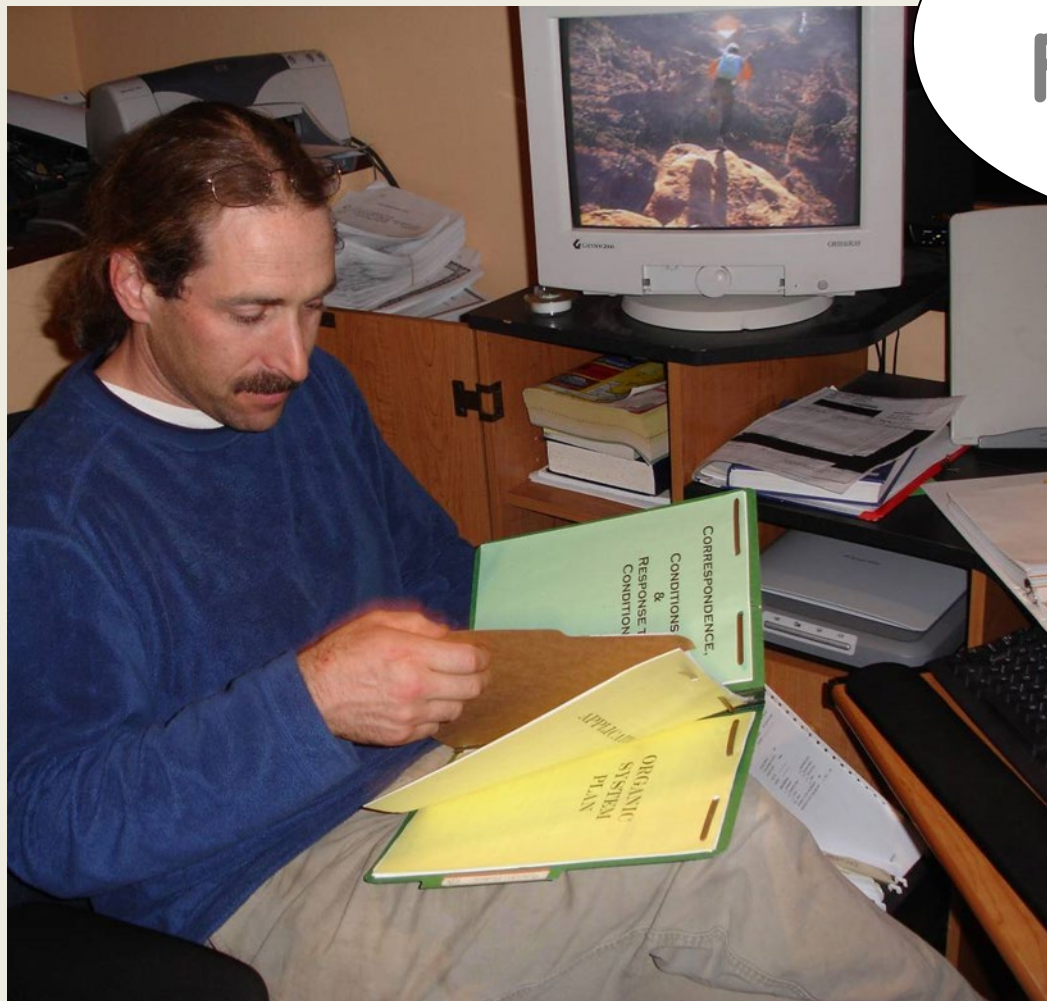
# **How will you keep your records? –what do you need to keep?**

- **Field/activity records**
- **Purchased input records**
- **Storage records**
- **Shipping or transport records**
- **Sales records**



# Record retention

Everybody's  
Favorite!



Must keep  
records  
for 5  
years





**BIN  
NUMBERS**



**BIN  
INVENTORY  
RECORDS**



# Develop a lot number system

**No specific system is required.**

**Must be adequate, consistent, and used.**

Here's an example      18-SW-B4-1

18	=	2018 crop year
SW	=	Spring Wheat
B4	=	Bin 4
1	=	1 <sup>st</sup> load





# The Physical Inspection of the Operation Verifies the OSP



B4  
1



# Opportunities – Funding

- Certification Cost Share
  - Up to 75% of certification costs or \$750
  - Per Scope (crop, livestock, processing, wildcrop)
- NRCS funding and technical assistance initiatives
  - EQIP - Transition to Organic funding
  - CSP – Conservation Activity Plan 138



# The End

