

Organics Get growing with OGA

A living from a better land

Often, the best way to test organic waters is to start small. The OGA Small Producer Program offers that opportunity without the unnecessary complexity and costs of certification for export or large scale markets. Regardless of size, under OGA every new organic operation is recognized as a step forward for the industry, the environment and society.

First steps – Save with the Small Producers Program

The Small Producers Program (SPP) is designed to nurture the smaller operator and provide reduced certification fees, with the option of transferring to export-compliant ACO certification at a later date. SPP is a simplified, flexible certification process.

To be eligible to join this program you:

- Must have a gross annual income of less than \$50,000* from sale of organic produce
- Must not be exporting or selling product destined for export as certified organic.

**This figure is reviewed each financial year and is subject to change*

Logo with integrity

Consumers, retailers, wholesalers, processors and producers alike now appreciate the intrinsic value behind the small growers' OGA sunflower logo. It tells consumers produce has the tick of approval from a professional and dependable auditing body.

What does it cost me?

The cost is one simple flat fee of \$380 excluding GST. There is no application fee and no levy. This cost is inclusive of all costs involved in the certification process and includes free subscription to Australian Certified Organic Magazine.

Where does the money go?

This \$380 annual charge is used for:

- Quality assured annual audits by a recognised independent third party
- Supplying your certificate of compliance and approval
- Administration costs in the auditing, certification and reporting process

How do I start?

Take a look at our simple self-assessment diagram to work out if you qualify for this program.

Once you are fully certified as a BFA/OGA Certified Small Producer you will:

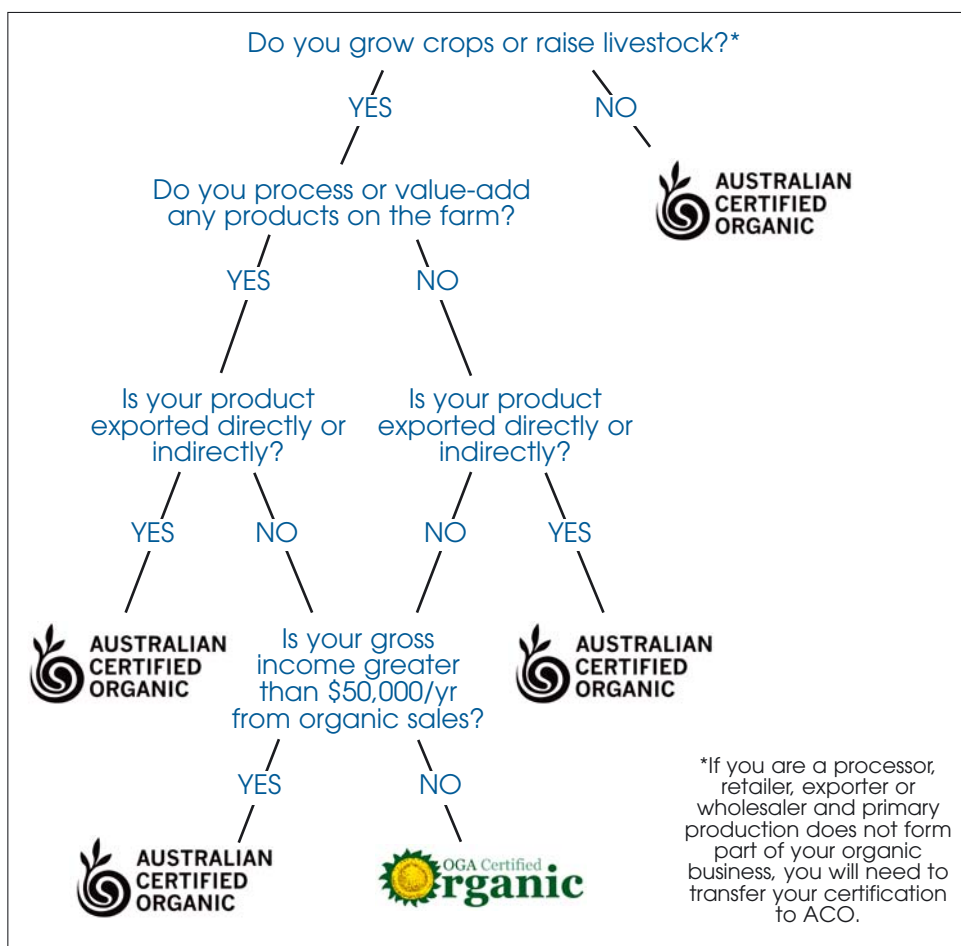
- Receive an audit of your operation's premises every year. This will alternate year by year between an onsite audit and a third party external desk audit/review process.
- Need to comply with the Australian Organic Standard (AOS) 2006. This standard outlines the practice you need to follow to remain certified. Copies are available for free download at www.bfa.com.au/publications
- Be offered ACO certification (at no application cost) if, further to applying for the program, your income exceeds \$50,000* for two successive years

- Be able to carry out cottage industry processing of your own produce
- You are not able to export with OGA accreditation. However, BFA can assist with the transition to ACO export recognised accreditation should you wish to grow.

For more information phone 07 3350 5716 (Ext 224), email oga@bfa.com.au or visit www.organicgrowers.org.au

Get growing with OGA & the BFA group

The Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) is the voice of Australian organics. It represents over 3,000 certified organic businesses and members and has developed standards for 20 years, enabling access to markets worldwide and providing a market advantage and premium for certified organic trade. Certifying programs under the BFA umbrella include Australian Certified Organic and BFA/ OGA Small Producer Program. www.bfa.com.au



ACOM SHOWCASE