



Produce Inspection Forms

Certified Naturally Grown

Overview

The goal of the inspection is two-fold: 1) to verify that the CNG standards are being upheld, and 2) to systematically review practices with the inspector and reflect on how to improve the sustainability of the operation.

The Farmer should...

- Before the inspection: complete the List of Inputs on the next page for the inspector to review on site
- During: walk through operation with inspector answering questions and sharing openly
- During: Complete the Sustainability Goals section (recommended)
- After: make a copy of the completed Worksheets, Summary Report, Overview, and List of Inputs to keep on file at the farm (recommended)

The Inspector should...

- Use the Inspection worksheets to (1) verify CNG standards are met, and (2) note highlights of what is discussed
 - **Best option:** We realize it's hard to capture the complexity of a farm. Please mark the answer that most closely reflects the farmer's practices. Use the Notes section on each page to clarify and provide details.
 - **Not applicable:** Some categories may not be applicable to the farm being inspected. That's okay! Please just explain why in the Notes section.
 - **Corrective actions:** Inspections can help identify areas where practices are not in alignment with CNG standards. If this is not a major violation and isn't intentional, the member may remain with CNG if they agree to take corrective actions. Use the Notes section to indicate what corrective actions will be taken by the farmer and when they will be taken to keep their certification in good standing. If you're unsure what may be appropriate, gather all relevant information and consult CNG staff at info@naturallygrown.org
- Share insights and suggestions to help the farmer set goals for improvement
- Review the List of Inputs and previous Sustainability Goals
- Carefully complete the Summary Inspection Report and Inspector Contact Information (final 2 pages)
- Return all pages of the Inspection Worksheets to CNG using the contact info on last page.

I affirm that I will make every effort to ensure that the information I provide during the inspection process is complete and accurate.

Inspector's name (print)

Initials

Date

Farmer's name (print)

Initials

Date

Soil	
Meets CNG Standards	Doesn't meet CNG Standards
<p>(Check all that apply)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> crop rotation <input type="checkbox"/> rest/fallow periods <input type="checkbox"/> annual or perennial cover crops	<input type="checkbox"/> use of compost <input type="checkbox"/> minimize bare soil <input type="checkbox"/> maintain surface plant residue
<input type="checkbox"/> contour plowing <input type="checkbox"/> permanent bed system (i.e. no till) <input type="checkbox"/> tillage practices designed to reduce compaction	<input type="radio"/> Uses no practices to improve soil quality
<p>Compost, mineral amendments, and/or other approved fertilizers are:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> used only as needed (according to soil tests or 'bioindicators') <input type="checkbox"/> made of known and CNG-approved ingredients	<input type="checkbox"/> not currently used <input type="checkbox"/> plan to use soil building techniques in the future
<p>Is raw or partially composted manure used? (This does not apply to completely composted manure)</p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If yes, then it's required that these two practices are followed. 1. Manure is applied <u>at least 120 days before</u> harvest if edible part of crop <u>comes into contact</u> with soil, AND 2. Manure is applied <u>at least 90 days before</u> harvest when edible portion <u>does not come into contact</u> with soil Are these practices followed? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No (please explain below)	<p>Uses any of the following:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> synthetic fertilizers (e.g. ammonia, phosphates) note: certain synthetic micronutrients may be used as a soil amendment with a deficiency documented by a soil test. If relevant, please include in "additional notes" section <input type="checkbox"/> sewage-based fertilizers (e.g. Milorganite)
<input type="radio"/> All amendments/inputs are produced on farm. <input type="radio"/> Most amendments are produced on farm, with minimal external additions. <input type="radio"/> Some are produced on farm, and some are external. <input type="radio"/> None are produced on farm, all are external.	<input type="checkbox"/> raw manure is applied LESS than 120 before harvest if edible part is in contact with soil or LESS than 90 days if edible part is not in contact with soil
<input type="radio"/> Soil tested <u>once per year or more</u> <input type="radio"/> Soil tested <u>less than</u> once per year <input type="radio"/> Other modes of monitoring and assessing soil fertility are used (describe in notes below) <input type="radio"/> Soil not tested recently	<input type="radio"/> No assessment of soil fertility. No interest in establishing a system to do so in the future.
<p>Please use this space for additional notes:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> on soil management <input type="checkbox"/> on corrective actions <input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR <input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)	

Weeds			
Meets CNG Standards			Doesn't meet CNG Standards
<input type="radio"/> No herbicides used	<input type="radio"/> Approved herbicides used rarely, only as a last resort	<input type="radio"/> Approved herbicides used frequently	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of synthetic weed control (e.g. 2,4-D, Roundup®/ glyphosate)
<p><i>(Check all that apply)</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Dense planting <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted watering/fertilizing <input type="checkbox"/> Living mulch <input type="checkbox"/> Cover cropping for weed control <input type="checkbox"/> Don't allow weeds to go to seed			<input type="checkbox"/> No plans/system to prevent weeds. No interest in establishing plan to in the future.
<input type="checkbox"/> Solarization <input type="checkbox"/> Tarping/occultation <input type="checkbox"/> Mulching <input type="checkbox"/> Flame weeding <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing			
<input type="checkbox"/> All mulches are biodegradable <u>and not manufactured</u> (e.g. straw, woodchips)	<input type="checkbox"/> All mulches are <u>biodegradable</u> E.g. woodchips, paper, straw, approved biodegradable plastic films	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of plastic mulch that is removed at the end of each season <input type="checkbox"/> Use of weed barriers that can be used for multiple seasons.* They are removed before they begin break down. <small>*CNG recommends using reusable weed barriers (rather than single-season black plastic) wherever practicable.</small>	Any of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to remove plastic mulch before it breaks down. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of oxo- or photo-degradable plastic mulch films. <input type="checkbox"/> Continued use of biodegradable plastic mulch when degradation rate appears low.
<p>Please use this space for additional notes:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> on weed management <input type="checkbox"/> on corrective actions <input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR <input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)			

Pests		
Meets CNG Standards		Doesn't meet CNG Standards
Frequency of monitoring (informal or formal): <input type="radio"/> Frequent and regular <input type="radio"/> Occasional <input type="radio"/> Infrequent or none		
Records: <input type="checkbox"/> ...include all relevant details (e.g. pest, affected crop, timing, % damage, intervention, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> ...are intermittent or lack some important details <input type="checkbox"/> Few or no records are kept <input type="checkbox"/> ...are consulted to inform future practices		
Connecting monitoring with management practices: <input type="radio"/> Management is based on real-time monitoring of insect population or crop damage <input type="radio"/> Management is based on records of previous monitoring <input type="radio"/> Management is not based on current observations or past records		
Cultural and physical practices to prevent and manage pests <input type="checkbox"/> adjusted planting schedule <input type="checkbox"/> manual removal <input type="checkbox"/> altered timing of disturbances (e.g. tilling or mowing) <input type="checkbox"/> physical barriers (e.g. row cover) <input type="checkbox"/> release predatory insects <input type="checkbox"/> crop rotation <input type="checkbox"/> insectary <input type="checkbox"/> selecting pest-resistant varieties <input type="checkbox"/> permanent habitat for pest predators <input type="checkbox"/> diversity of crops/varieties <input type="checkbox"/> trap crops <input type="checkbox"/> intercrop fields or beds with non-host plants <input type="checkbox"/> cover crops to break pest cycles	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic preventative practices, e.g. sanitation Use of approved insecticides: <input type="radio"/> used infrequently, based on monitoring <input type="radio"/> used frequently <input type="radio"/> pest-specific <input type="radio"/> broad spectrum	Either of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> No pest prevention or control practices are used, and no plan to begin in the future. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of synthetic applications to control insect pests (e.g. Sevin®, malathion) or prohibited natural substances (e.g. rotenone)
Please use this space for additional notes: <input type="checkbox"/> on pest management <input type="checkbox"/> on corrective actions <input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR <input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)		

Disease	
Meets CNG Standards	Doesn't meet CNG Standards
<p>Frequency of monitoring (informal or formal):</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Frequent and regular <input type="radio"/> Occasional <input type="radio"/> Infrequent or none</p>	
<p>Records:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ...include all relevant details (e.g. disease, affected crop, timing, % damage, intervention, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> ...are intermittent or lack some important details <input type="checkbox"/> Few or no records are kept.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ...are consulted to inform future practices</p>	
<p>Connecting monitoring with management practices:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Management is based mostly on real-time monitoring of insect population or crop damage <input type="radio"/> Management is based on records of previous monitoring <input type="radio"/> Management is ad hoc not based on current observations or past records</p>	
<p>Cultural and physical practices to prevent and manage disease</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> adjusted planting schedule <input type="checkbox"/> manual removal & disposal of diseased tissue/plants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> cover crops to break disease cycles <input type="checkbox"/> physical barriers (e.g. high tunnel)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> extended crop rotation <input type="checkbox"/> selecting disease-resistant varieties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> plant spacing for air flow <input type="checkbox"/> diversity of crops/varieties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> pruning plants for air flow <input type="checkbox"/> intercrop fields or beds with non-host plants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> adjusted irrigation schedule to reduce leaf wetness <input type="checkbox"/> manage non-crop host plants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> use of drip tape to limit leaf wetness</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Basic preventative practices, e.g. sanitation</p> <p>Use of approved fungicides:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> used infrequently, based on monitoring <input type="radio"/> used frequently</p> <p><input type="radio"/> disease-specific <input type="radio"/> broad spectrum</p>
<p>Either of the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No disease prevention or control practices are used, and no plan to begin in the future.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Use of synthetic applications to control diseases (e.g. Quadris®, chlorothalonil, Stratego®)</p>	
<p>Please use this space for additional notes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on disease management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on corrective actions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)</p>	

Preventing contamination

Meets CNG Standards		Doesn't meet CNG Standards
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffer zone of at least 20 feet* ~AND~ <input type="checkbox"/> barriers taller than height of crop between growing areas and possible sources of contamination nearby.	<input type="checkbox"/> Buffer zone of at least 20 feet* ~OR~ <input type="checkbox"/> barriers taller than height of crop between growing areas and potential sources of contamination.	<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient separation of growing areas from potential sources of contamination, such as industry, treated lawns, conventional orchards or farm fields. This includes fields managed conventionally on the same farm as the CNG fields.
<p>*Conventional orchards or other land uses with high risk of drift require buffer of 100 ft. The slope of land, prevailing wind patterns, and no-spray agreements with neighbors should also be taken into account in evaluating the necessary minimum buffer. These factors can reduce or increase the risk of runoff and drift.</p>		
<input type="radio"/> All equipment, tools or sprayers are used only for CNG areas.	<input type="radio"/> Equipment, tools or sprayers are used for CNG and conventional areas, but they are always cleaned thoroughly before use in CNG areas.	<input type="radio"/> Equipment, tools or sprayers are used for CNG & conventional areas without being cleaned in between.
<input type="radio"/> No synthetic pesticides or fertilizers have been used for the last 36 months or more.	<input type="radio"/> Synthetic pesticides or fertilizers are known or suspected to have been used within the last 36 months, <u>AND</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> farm certification is labeled 'transitional' <input type="checkbox"/> application includes information on what was applied & when <input type="checkbox"/> farmer can explain how transitional status is communicated to customers through market displays, signage, labeling, CSA newsletters, etc. 	<input type="radio"/> Prohibited synthetic pesticides or fertilizers have been used within the last 36 months, but farm's certification is not labeled transitional.
<p>Please use this space for additional notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> on preventing contamination <input type="checkbox"/> on corrective actions <input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR <input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain) 		

Seeds & Planting Stock		
Meets CNG Standards		Doesn't meet CNG Standards
<p>Seeds:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> All seeds are CNG, certified organic or verified to be grown according to CNG standards.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nearly all seeds are CNG or grown according to CNG standards. Rare use of conventional seeds (allowed only with applicable exception*)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Some conventional seeds are used (allowed only with applicable exception*)</p> <p>All seeds are non-GMO and free from synthetic chemical treatments</p> <p>All seeds are non-GMO and free from synthetic chemical treatments.</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Use of seeds that are conventionally-grown*, genetically modified, or chemically treated</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Use of conventionally grown seeds to grow micro-greens (seeds sprouted without soil).</p>
<p>*An exception to the rule prohibiting conventionally-grown seeds may be granted when the specific variety sought is not available commercially in organically grown form (but seed must still be non-GMO and not chemically-treated). Farmer should check with at least 3 major seed suppliers.</p>		
<p>Transplants:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> All transplants are CNG, certified organic, or verified to be grown according to CNG standards</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> All transplants are grown on farm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Most transplants are grown on farm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Some transplants are grown on farm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> All transplants are purchased</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Transplants grown with synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, wetting agents, or seeds that are genetically modified or chemically treated.</p>
<p>Crop Diversity:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High level of crop diversity and/or crop varieties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Cropping</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Companion Planting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Open-Pollinated Varieties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seeds Saved on farm</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Moderate level of crop diversity and/or crop varieties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only one or a few types of crops and only one variety per crop</p>
<p>Please use this space for additional notes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on seeds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on transplants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on microgreens/sprouts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)</p>		

Environment		
Meets CNG Standards		Doesn't meet CNG Standards
<input type="checkbox"/> No on-farm use of fossil fuels. <input type="checkbox"/> wind <input type="checkbox"/> solar <input type="checkbox"/> biofuel <input type="checkbox"/> geothermal	<input type="checkbox"/> reducing tractor passes <input type="checkbox"/> equipment maintenance to improve efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> energy efficient appliances <input type="checkbox"/> energy efficient lighting, cooling, heating	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating steps to reduce energy consumption or reliance on non-renewable energy. Plan to do so in the near future (i.e. next 6 mo.)
<input type="checkbox"/> heavy mulching <input type="checkbox"/> rainwater harvesting <input type="checkbox"/> contouring AND/OR <input type="checkbox"/> earth-shaping for rain water capture	<input type="checkbox"/> drip tape <input type="checkbox"/> modular overhead sprinkler systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Considering steps to reduce water use and developing a plan to do so in the near future (i.e. next 6 mo.)
<input type="radio"/> All waste is composted, recycled or upcycled.	<input type="radio"/> Moderate steps taken to reduce, recycle, or upcycle non-degradable waste.	<input type="radio"/> Considering steps to reduce waste and developing a plan to do so in the near future (i.e. next 6 mo.)
<input type="checkbox"/> conserving habitat areas on farm <input type="checkbox"/> protecting wetlands, woodlands, or grasslands <input type="checkbox"/> ensuring generous vegetative buffers to waterways <input type="checkbox"/> controlling invasive species <input type="checkbox"/> creating habitat for endangered or rare species	<input type="checkbox"/> managing field edges for native species <input type="checkbox"/> using live hedges <input type="checkbox"/> pollinator plantings	<input type="checkbox"/> reducing tillage or other disturbances, <input type="checkbox"/> selecting cover crops to support pollinators
Please use this space for additional notes: <input type="checkbox"/> on disease management <input type="checkbox"/> on corrective actions <input type="checkbox"/> if any sections didn't apply, OR <input type="checkbox"/> if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)		

Non-CNG Crops and Materials

Does the grower sell any produce that they do not grow?

Note this can happen in different ways, not all of which are allowed. For example a) expanding variety by selling on behalf of another farm, or b) supplementing the supply of a particular crop by purchasing from wholesale markets.

If the grower sells any produce they don't grow themselves, how do they distinguish it from their CNG crops to avoid customer misperceptions?

For the record, please list any crops that are excluded from CNG certification. Why are they excluded?

Are there any other practices or materials that do not adhere to CNG standards? If so, what are they and what is the grower's plan to stop using these practices or materials?

Overall

Additional notes or aspects about any aspect of the farm (Feel free to include a good story, or practices or projects that show how the grower is going above and beyond the baseline requirements for CNG certification.)

Sustainability Goals: going beyond the core standards

We are united by our commitment to improving the soil and caring for the earth and our families with the long-term view in mind. We are focused mainly on ecological sustainability; however, the continued success of any farm depends on the economic and social factors as well.

The farmer should take this opportunity to reflect on and set some goals for improving sustainability on his or her farm using the inspector as a sounding board. These may be short-term or long-term goals and could be in any of the following areas, or others:

- **Soil:** preventing erosion and runoff, building organic matter, cover cropping, reducing compaction
- **Water:** Use efficiency, rain water capture, run-off prevention, protecting wetlands and waterways
- **Inputs:** Use efficiency, reducing use, replacing with local products and/or preventative practices
- **Biodiversity:** Protecting/providing habitat for wildlife, buffering wild areas
- **Supporting biological cycles:** Habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects
- **Energy:** Energy efficiency, renewable energy
- **Waste:** Reduction, reuse, recycling
- **Economic viability** Maintain/improve the bottom line; pay yourself and staff fair wages.
- **Engaging the community:** Educate the public, increase food access

What are 3 goals for improving sustainability of your operation in the short term and long term? Discuss strategies to achieve these goals.

Goal	Time frame	Steps necessary to make it happen
1.		
2.		
3.		

Page intentionally left blank

INSPECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

This information will be kept completely confidential but is required for this form to be valid. It is only so we have the option to contact you with any follow-up questions and/or to confirm that you conducted the inspection and filled in this form.

Farm you inspected: _____

Your Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Your Phone: _____ Your Email: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

- I recommend this farm I recommend the farm with minor corrective actions I don't recommend this farm for CNG certification

You're almost done! But FIRST:

- Did you sign the Summary Inspection Report at the bottom?
- Did the farmer sign too?
- Did you initial the agree/disagree statements?
- Did you indicate your farm/affiliation on the summary report?

And for fun...

- Document the occasion with a celebratory photo
- Email your photos to photos@naturallygrown.org
- Share on Instagram or Facebook
- Use these hashtags:
#CNGproud
#CNGinspection

Please return all these Inspection Forms to CNG using one of the three methods below.

We encourage you to email scanned images of your report. It helps us reduce paper waste, and supports our shift to more efficient electronic record keeping. (Free apps for scanning using your smart phone are noted below). We prefer it when all pages are merged together into a single PDF.

Mail

Certified Naturally Grown
540 President Street, Third Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11215

OR

Fax

718-596-4697

OR

Email

forms@naturallygrown.org

Free phone apps:
iScanner or **DocScan**

Kindly merge all individual pages into a single PDF file

Inspection forms for all five certification types can be downloaded at CNGfarming.org/CNGforms



Glossary of Terms ~ Produce Inspection Forms

Soil:

Permanent Bed System – Often referred to as no-till or scrape tilling. A system that eliminates deep tillage and plant beds are maintained in place perennially.

Contour Plowing – Plowing or tilling along the contour of the land (rather than in straight line) to minimize erosion.

Bioindicators – Common “eye tests” that indicate soil health. Some examples include: presence of observable life in soil, color of soil, observable health of crops, feel of soil, drainage, how soil breaks on ground when dropped.

Weeds:

Living Mulch – A crop that is interplanted with cash crops where the primary purpose is to cover soil and/or suppress weeds.

Solarization – Use of a material (usually a clear plastic tarp) to trap solar energy in order to sterilize weed seeds. Can also be used against pests and diseases.

Tarping/Occultation – Covering the ground with an object through which light cannot penetrate. The object is then removed once weeds seeds have germinated and died (typically after several weeks).

Flame Weeding – The use of a flame thrower or another fuel burning device to kill weeds. The goal is not to set plants on fire, but to damage their cell structure of their foliage. It is most effective when weeds are at thread stage.

Timely Weeding – Timing cultivation practices to keep crop growth ahead of weed growth.

Stale Seed Bed – Also referred to as a “false seed bed.” A seedbed created weeks before seeding or transplanting where weeds are allowed to germinate and then controlled by a practice that does not disturb the soil. Crop is then planted with minimal weed competition.

Pests:

Trap Crops – A crop planted to divert pests from a nearby crop. It works most effectively when the trap crop and pests on it are destroyed. Common examples are collard greens for cabbage moth, nasturtiums for aphids and blue Hubbard squash for cucumber beetles.

Insectary Plant - Also referred to as beneficial insectary. A plant that attracts pollinating or predatory insects. Common examples are marigolds, alyssum, cosmos, calendula and phacelia.

Disease:

Extended Crop Rotation – A crop rotation that maximizes time before a crop some the same family is planted in the same field. For instance, if a soil-borne disease resides in the soil for five years, a seven-year rotation will be much more affective than a three-year rotation for disease management.

Seeds & Planting Stock:

Wetting Agent - A chemical that can be added to a liquid to reduce its surface tension. It is common in synthetic potting soils and prohibited in CNG use. Aloe is a natural alternative.

Open-Pollinated Varieties – Varieties that are bred with natural pollination mechanisms, such as wind, birds, bees or humans. This differs from hybridization, where pollination is controlled and limited to two different varieties or species. Open pollination results in greater genetic diversity since there is no restriction between the flow of pollen between plants.

Multi-Cropping – The practice of planting two or more crop in the same field.

Companion Planting – The practice of planting two or more crops in close proximity to each other that enhance one or more of the plants' growth.