

Inspection Information ~ Mushrooms

Please read this now to ensure your certification remains in good standing.

- You are responsible for making the arrangements to have your operation inspected (no one else will set it up for you).
- To avoid a conflict of interest, Inspections cannot be 'exchanged' within a 12-month period. For example, if Producer A conducts an inspection of Producer B's operation, then Producer B cannot conduct an inspection of Producer A's operation that year. Producer A must find another eligible inspector.
- Do not repeatedly rely on the same inspector when there are other CNG producers nearby. Doing so risks compromising the integrity of the program, shortchanges you by not giving you diverse perspectives on your operation, and puts you at risk of having your inspection report be considered invalid. Variances may be granted in special cases.
- An inspection round of three or more is allowed (encouraged!). That's when Producer A inspects Producer B, who inspects Producer C, who in turn inspects Producer A. This is the beginning of a local network!
- Inspections shall be conducted annually (with a 4-month grace period), by different qualified inspectors each year.
- You may be de-listed from the CNG program if you do not arrange an inspection for your operation in a timely manner.
- You may be de-listed from the CNG program if you do not conduct an inspection of another CNG mushroom operation when there is one within an hour's drive that needs an inspection. If there is not another CNG mushroom producer within an hour's drive who needs an inspection, the work requirement may be waived for that year.
- Individuals with familial ties to the producer or who are employees or interns of the producer are not eligible to serve as their inspector.
- Visit the CNG map online at CNGfarming.org/map to see which CNG producers are near you.

Types of Inspectors

- A Mushroom Producer who is CNG If possible, have your inspection forms filled out by another mushroom producer in your area whose operation is Certified Naturally Grown. Remember you can't inspect the person who inspects you. Most CNG mushroom producers will likely be located great distances from one another, at least in the first few years, so as an alternative, you may rely on one of the other inspectors listed below. Please note, we don't expect anyone to drive more than an hour in order to conduct an inspection of another CNG operation.
- Mushroom Producer who is certified organic You may also ask a certified organic mushroom producer to serve as your inspector.
- Mushroom Producer who is not certified, but uses natural methods Alternatively, you may rely on a mushroom producer who is not certified, but who uses natural methods.
- Soil-based farmer with CNG or organic certification If there are no inspectors of the above types within an hour drive who are able to conduct an inspection, producers may rely on a soil-based farmer to serve as an inspector provided that the farmer is (a) approved in advance by CNG staff and (b) reviews an informational document provided by CNG prior to the inspection.

Tips for success

Look at the Map on the website to find CNG members near you. Search by zip code! CNGfarming.org/map

Use the telephone! E-mail isn't a very effective tool for this kind of request. A phone call usually gets much better results.

Follow-up! If your inspector made vague plans to come by, but never did, go ahead and give them another call. A friendly reminder is usually all that's needed to get the job done. Or, if necessary, find someone else to inspect.

You may download and print Mushroom Inspection Forms at CNGfarming.org/cngforms