

Certifications and Labels: What, Why, and How

Additional Resources

NC Farm School Summit
October 11, 2016

Organic Certification and Labeling

NC Organic Certification Cost Share Program

<http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/commodit/horticul/ncorganics/index.htm>

ATTRA, Organic Certification of Farms and Businesses Producing Agricultural Products, 2012
(free digital copy)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=152>

USDA, Accredited Certifying Agents

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/certifying-agents>

USDA, Organic Resource Website

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=organic-agriculture>

USDA, Organic Labeling at Farmers Markets, 2015

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Organic%20at%20Farmers%20Markets.pdf>

“Natural” on Food Labeling

U.S. Food & Drug Administration, What is the meaning of ‘natural’ on the label of food?

<http://www.fda.gov/aboutfda/transparency/basics/ucm214868.htm>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration, “Natural” on Food Labeling

The FDA Requests Comments on Use of the Term “Natural” on Food Labeling

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm456090.htm>

Resource list developed by NC Cooperative Extension Service.

Mention of commercial enterprises or brand names does not constitute endorsement or imply preference by NC State University or North Carolina Cooperative Extension.



Animal Welfare Certifications and Label Claims

USDA Animal Welfare Information Center, Certification Programs

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/certification-programs>

State and Regional Local Food Brands

State Branding

- Got to be NC - <http://gottobenc.com/>

Examples of Regional Branding

- Piedmont Grown - <http://www.piedmontgrown.org/>
- Appalachian Grown - <http://www.appalachiangrown.org/>
- Feast Down East - <http://www.feastdowneast.org/>

Labeling for Value-Added / Processed Foods

(including Dairy)

NC State University, Entrepreneur Initiative 4 Food

https://fbns.ncsu.edu/extension_program/entrepreneurs.html

U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Guidance for Industry: A Food Labeling Guide

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006828.htm>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Guidance for Industry: FDA's Implementation of "Qualified Health Claims": Questions and Answers; Final Guidance.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm053843.htm>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Health Claims Meeting Significant Scientific Agreement (SSA).

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/IngredientsPackagingLabeling/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006876.htm>

U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Label Claims, Types of Claims: Definitions, Guidance, Regulatory Information, and Permitted Claims
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/IngredientsPackagingLabeling/LabelingNutrition/ucm2006873.htm>

USDA, Labeling Organic Products
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Labeling%20Organic%20Products.pdf>

Other Labeling Resources

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-003, **Special Claims and the Approval Process for Niche Meat Production** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/special-claims-and-the-approval-process-for-niche-meat-production>

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, Understanding Food Quality Labels: A Guide to AMS Grade Shields, Value-Added Labels, and Official Seals
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/AMS%20Product%20Label%20Factsheet.pdf>

USDA, Healthy on Food Labels.
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm520695.htm>

Resources on Regulations and Labeling

CFSA Growing your Local Food Business in North Carolina: A Guide to Laws and Regulations
https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CFSA_RegGuide-NC2012_webres4.pdf

NC Egg Law, Container labeling, *e.g.* “The term “fresh” may only be applied to eggs conforming to the specifications for Grade A or better.”
<http://www.ncagr.gov/fooddrug/food/egglaw.htm>

NC Food Law, Article 12 Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Law
http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByArticle/Chapter_106/Article_12.html

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. <http://www.ncagr.gov/>

Related Extension Publications

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-002. **Tips for Produce Growers Marketing Produce to Retail Grocers: Understanding PLU and UPC Codes.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/tips-for-produce-growers-marketing-fresh-produce-to-retail-grocers-understanding-plu-and-upc-codes>

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-006. **How to Sell Shell Eggs into Grocery Stores Through Direct Store Delivery.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-sell-shell-eggs-into-grocery-stores-through-direct-store-delivery>

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-009. **Selling Fluid Milk to Grocery Stores Via Direct Store Delivery.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/selling-fluid-milk-to-grocery-stores-through-direct-store-delivery>

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-011-001. **Overview of NC State Finished Beef Production Guidelines.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/overview-of-nc-state-finished-beef-production-guidelines>

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-011-002. **NC State Local Finished Beef Production Guidelines.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/nc-state-local-finished-beef-production-guidelines>

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-011-003. **NC State Pasture-Raised and Pasture-Finished Beef Production Guidelines.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/nc-state-local-pasture-raised-and-pasture-finished-beef-production-guidelines>

NC Cooperative Extension, LF-011-004. **NC State Grass-Fed Beef Production Guidelines.** (NC Choices and NC Growing Together Project)
<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/nc-state-local-grass-fed-beef-production-guidelines>