Organic Certification: Separating Myth from Fact

Myth or Fact: You can't use chemicals in organic agriculture

Myth! Organic growers and ranches use chemicals to control pests, clean and sanitize equipment, and to treat disease. Oftentimes, these chemicals are the naturally derived cousins of chemicals used in conventional ag—for example, gypsum can be used on an organic farm if it's naturally mined.

Myth or Fact: You can't grow organically in Georgia

Myth! Georgia currently has over 130 certified organic farms and livestock operations growing everything from peanuts to pecans to blueberries to cattle to poultry. In fact, the largest certified organic farm east of the Mississippi is in South Georgia!

Myth or Fact: The organic certification process is a lot of paperwork

Fact! We're not going to lie, the application is long and can be tedious. Fortunately, the application is designed to require recordkeeping that will help a farmer run a better business. For example, applications require a list of seed purchases, field logs, harvest records, and sales records. They also require plans to handle pests, weeds, and diseases on the farm and a plan to promote soil health. And remember, the Georgia Organics Farmer Services team is here to help you if you get stuck and need help working on your application!