Like so many businesses, organic certification uses a lot of acronyms and jargon. We constantly use this language in the MOFGA Certification Services office. Familiarity with these common terms and other aspects of organic certification can help producers, marketers and consumers further the goal of increasing the availability and use of organic products. We hope this crossword puzzle helps you test your knowledge and fills in any gaps – and entertains you.

Across
2. Substances generally prohibited in organic production
7. Branch of USDA that can help with paperwork for transitioning to organic, acronym
8. MCS staff person who reviews clients’ organic system plans
9. One way MCS communicates with its clients
11. Nonprofit that reviews materials for use in organic production, acronym
16. Association through which accredited certifiers work together to ensure consistent regs, acronym
17. A non-synthetic input prohibited in organic production
18. Most common certifier in Maine, acronym
19. Percent of certification costs that federal government reimburses to certified growers and handlers, to a certain maximum

Down
1. Approximate number of organic certifiers in the United States
2. Jaco from MOFGA Certification Services last name
3. Regulatory program for organic standards within USDA, acronym
4. Natural Resources Conservation Service program acronym that needs a “U”
5. One of the steps in obtaining organic certification
6. Not allowed in organic livestock production
10. List of allowed and prohibited substances for organic production
12. Act passed in 1990 to create uniform federal organic standards, acronym
13. Provides cost share assistance for certification under the NOP, acronym
14. Advises about organic standards, acronym
15. What MCS’s MC3 program certifies

Answers
ACROSS
2. Synthetic
7. NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
8. Specialist
9. The Organic Sprout
11. OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute)
16. ACA (Accredited Certifiers Association)

17. Arsenic
18. MCS (MOFGA Certification Services LLC)
19. Seventy-five

DOWN
1. Fifty
2. Schravesande-Gardei
3. NOP (National Organic Program)
4. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)
5. Inspection
6. Antibiotics
10. National List
12. OFPA (Organic Foods Production Act)
13. NOCCSP (National Organic Certification Cost Share Program)
14. NOSB (National Organic Standards Board)
15. Cannabis