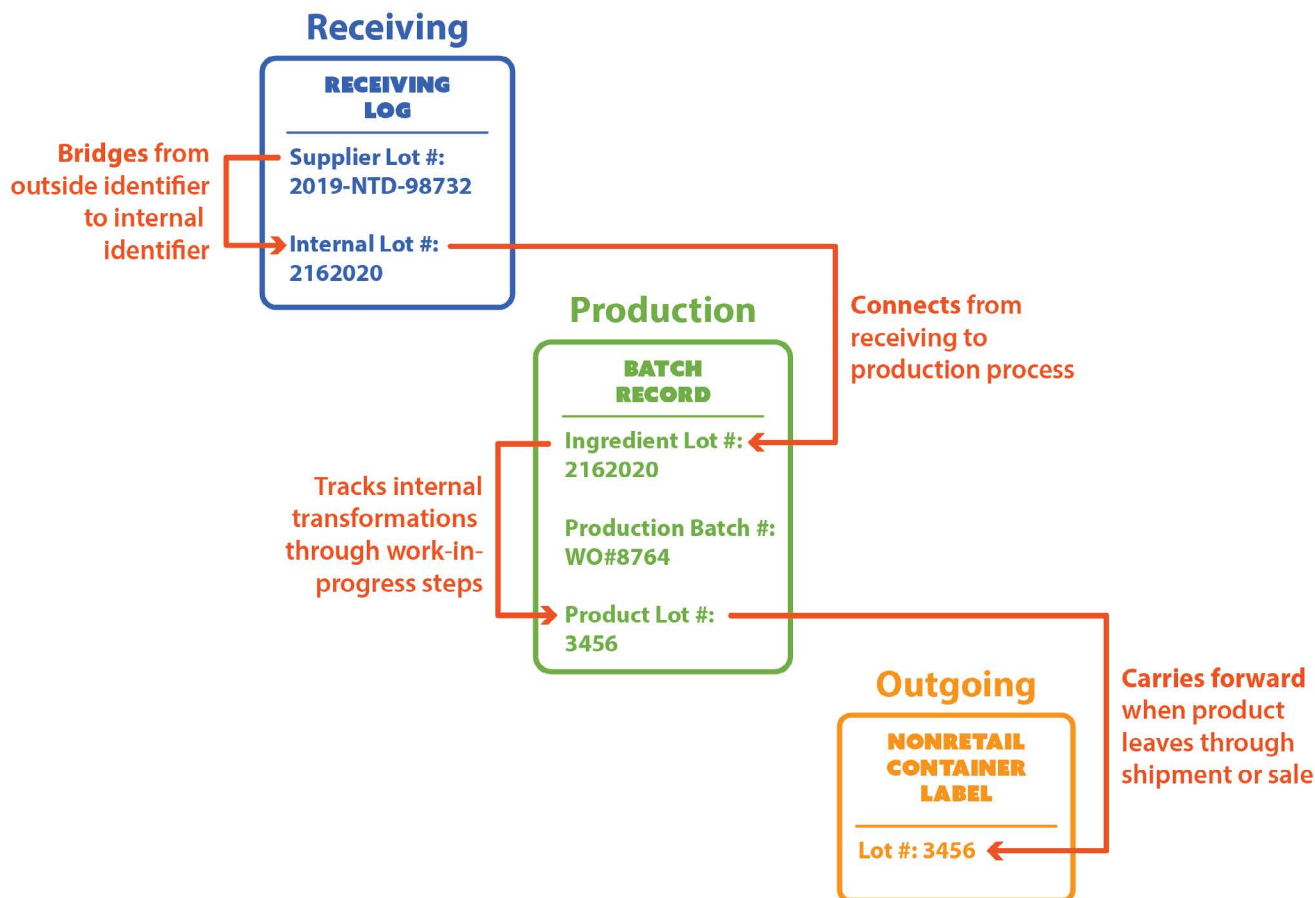




LOT NUMBER TRANSITIONS THROUGH THE PRODUCTION CHAIN

Lot numbers are the most reliable identifier in the audit trail because your operation assigns them, controls their format, carries them forward through every stage, and can print them on physical containers. A lot number gives a specific quantity of product a unique, persistent identity that follows it through every record. The most common gap in an organic audit trail is an undocumented lot number transition. Each transition must be documented with a bridging record between the old and new identifier so the inspector can follow the chain.

Lot Number Transition Example



Each lot number transition point must be documented so an inspector, or anyone, can follow the chain without guessing.

SOURCES CITED

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR 205.2 "Production lot number/identifier".