



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

April 21, 2017

TO: ALL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS
ACCREDITED CERTIFYING AGENTS OPERATING IN CALIFORNIA
ALL CALIFORNIA ORGANIC REGISTRANTS

RE: **NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM**
NEW APPLICATION PACKET FOR THE PERIOD 2016/2017

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has announced the availability of funding for the fiscal year (FY) 2017 for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) for eligible certified organic producers and handlers to assist with the cost of organic certification under the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be distributing reimbursement to operations that have been certified by a USDA accredited certifying agent, and for registration fees paid to the CDFFA State Organic Program (SOP) and/or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). In addition, beginning March 20, 2017, applicants may now apply in person at any California office of the Farm Service Agency. More information is available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>.

The National Organic Program (NOP) currently recognizes four scopes of certification: crops, wild crops, livestock, and processing/handling. In addition to these four scopes, applications will be accepted for reimbursement of SOP/CDPH registration fees. Eligible entities will be reimbursed up to 75 percent of their organic certification costs, and SOP/CDPH fees; not to exceed \$750 per scope. Any organic operation in California that has received or renewed organic certification and SOP/CDPH registration on or between **October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017** may apply for reimbursement. **Applications must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2017. There will be no exceptions.**

Certification Reimbursement

In order to receive certification reimbursement, applicants must submit a **completed Federal Organic Certification Cost Share Application (ORG-106), a copy of your certification, copies of associated paid expense invoices required to obtain and/or maintain certification, and a completed Payee Data Record Form (STD 204).**

Organic Registration Reimbursement

In order to receive State Organic Registration//Department of Health Services Registration reimbursement, **applicants must submit a completed State Organic Program/Department of Health Services Cost Share Application (ORG-106a), a copy of your current registration certificate, proof of payment of registration fees, and a completed Payee Data Record Form (STD 204).**

Applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. **Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted. Please review the Instructions page included with this application packet before completing the applications.**

See reverse side for mailing instructions, on-line link, and contact information.



Submit completed applications to:

Department of Food and Agriculture
Organic Cost Share Program
ATTN: Sharon Parsons
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
sparsons@cdfa.ca.gov

Electronic copies of this letter and supporting material can be found at the following Internet address:
http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&c/organic.html under Cost Share Application. For additional information,
please contact Sharon Parsons at (916) 900-5202 or by e-mail at sparsons@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sharon Parsons
Program Coordinator
California Organic Cost Share Program
Enclosures