



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

August 12, 2020

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

RE: **NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE
PROGRAM APPLICATION PACKET FOR THE PERIOD
2019/2020**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has announced the availability of funding for the fiscal year (FY) 2019 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 CDFA State Organic Program (SOP), and/or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for Organic Processed Product Registration. In addition, 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 CDFA/CDPH SOP registration fees. Eligible entities will be reimbursed up to 50 percent of their organic certification costs, and CDFA/CDPH fees; not to exceed \$500 per scope.

Any organic operation in California that has received or renewed organic certification through the USDA on or between **October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020** may apply for reimbursement. **Applications must be postmarked no later than November 2, 2020. There will be no exceptions.** We encourage applicants to submit their applications as soon as possible after receiving certification to ensure reimbursement.

PLEASE NOTE: There is now a combined application for both the USDA Federal Organic Certification and State Registration reimbursement. Please refer to the Application Checklist sheet provided to ensure all areas of the application are correctly filled out.

Applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted. Upon receiving the application please allow up to 60 days for review and approval and an additional 45 days for reimbursement from our Financial Services Branch.

To ensure receipt of your application(s) it is recommended that you email them to CDFA.ISD_Cost_Share_Program@cdfa.ca.gov or send them via certified mail to the address below:

Department of Food and Agriculture
ATTN: Organic Program/Cost Share
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Electronic copies of this letter and supporting material can be found at:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/organicprogram/costshare.html> under Cost Share Application.

For additional information, please contact the Cost Share Program at (916) 900-5202 or by e-mail CDFA.ISD_Cost_Share_Program@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Cost Share Program Coordinator
California Organic Cost Share Program