



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

June 14, 2024

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
2023/2024**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), has announced the availability of funding for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), for Program Year 2024, which covers expenses paid from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The OCCSP assists eligible certified organic producers, handlers and processors 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 reimbursements to operations that have been certified by a United States Department of Agriculture (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 fees. In addition, applicants may now apply in person at any California office of the FSA. 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 75 percent per scope of their organic certification costs and CDFA/CDPH fees; not to exceed \$750 per scope.

Any organic operation in California that has received or renewed organic certification through the USDA on or between **October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024** may apply for reimbursement. **Applications postmarked or emailed after November 1, 2024 will not be accepted.** We encourage applicants to submit their applications as soon as possible after receiving certification to ensure reimbursement.

Applications will be processed upon receipt; on a first come, first serve basis. Please allow up to 120 days for application review and approval, and up to an additional 30 days for reimbursement to be received from our Financial Services Branch. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted.

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,

Andrea Cano
Staff Services Analyst
California Organic Cost Share Program