



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

May 28, 2021

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  
2020/2021**

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 2021, which covers expenses paid from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. 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 50 percent per scope 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, 2020 and September 30, 2021** may apply for reimbursement. **Applications postmarked or emailed after November 1, 2021 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 60 days for application review and approval, and up to an additional 60 days for reimbursement to be received from our Financial Services Branch. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted within a two week time frame from the date of the returned application.

To ensure receipt of your application(s) it is recommended that you email them to [CDFA.ISD\\_Cost\\_Share\\_Program@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto:CDFA.ISD_Cost_Share_Program@cdfa.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Vanessa Jivan  
Staff Services Analyst  
California Organic Cost Share Program