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[Notices]

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**Notices**

Federal Register

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Marketing Service

[TM-01-02]

Notice of **Organic** Certification Cost Share Program

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Services, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

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 SUMMARY: This Notice invites eligible States to submit a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Agricultural Marketing Service for the Allocation of **Organic** Certification Cost-Share Funds. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has allocated \$1.0 million for an **organic** certification cost-share program in Fiscal Year 2001. Funds will be available under this program to 15 designated States to assist **organic** crop and livestock producers in transitioning into the new National **Organic** Program. Eligible States interested in obtaining cost-share funds for their **organic** producers will have to submit an Application for Federal Assistance, and will have to enter into a cooperative agreement with AMS for the allocation of such funds.

DATES: Completed applications for federal assistance along with signed cooperative agreements must be received by July 9, 2001 in order to participate in the program.

ADDRESSES: Applications for federal assistance and cooperative agreements shall be requested from and submitted to: Bob Pooler,

Marketing Specialist, National **Organic** Program, USDA/AMS/TMP/NOP, PO Box 96456, Room 2510-South, Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Telephone: (202) 690-3655; Fax: (202) 205-7808; e-mail: [Bob.Pooler@usda.gov](mailto:Bob.Pooler@usda.gov). Additional information may be found through the National **Organic** Program s homepage at <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leavi>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Pooler, Marketing Specialist, National **Organic** Program, USDA/AMS/TM/NOP, PO Box 96456, Room 2510-South, Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC, 20090-6456; Telephone: (202) 690-3655; Fax: (202) 205-7808; e-mail: [Bob.Pooler@usda.gov](mailto:Bob.Pooler@usda.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The **Organic** Certification Cost-Share Program is part of the Agricultural Management Assistance Program authorized under the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPR), Public Law 106-224, section 524, 114 Stat. 387 (2000), 7 U.S.C. 1524. Under the applicable ARPR provisions, the Department is authorized to provide cost share assistance to producers in not more than 15 states which have a historically low participation rate in the Federal crop insurance program. One of the purposes of the ARPR's cost-share program is to assist producers in transitioning to the new National **Organic** Program authorized under the **Organic** Foods Production Act of 1990, 7 U.S.C. 6501-6522.

The Department has determined that the following States are eligible to participate in the program: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, or Wyoming.

To participate in the program, eligible States must complete a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and enter into a written cooperative agreement with AMS. The program will provide cost-share assistance, through participating States, to **organic** crop and livestock producers who have been certified by a certifying agent as of December 21, 2000. The Department has determined that payments will be limited to 70 percent of an individual producer's certification costs up to a maximum of \$500.00.

Authority: Pub. L. 106-224, section 524, 114 Stat. 387 (2000), 7 U.S.C. 1524.

Dated: May 17, 2001.  
Kenneth C. Clayton,  
Acting Administrator.  
[FR Doc. 01-12937 Filed 5-22-01; 8:45 am]  
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