

WHAT ARE THE COST SHARE PROGRAMS?



The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service reimburses certified organic producers and handlers for some of the costs of organic certification. All 50 States, as well as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are eligible to participate. Organic producers and handlers may be reimbursed for expenses paid for first-time organic certifications, as well as renewals of certification. The programs are authorized by two pieces of legislation: the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 2001 and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

The cost share programs reduce the cost of organic certification in accordance with the Agricultural Marketing Service's goal of strengthening market support for U.S. agriculture.

Organic Integrity from Farm to Table Consumers Trust the Organic Label

MISSION

The National Organic Program facilitates trade and ensures integrity of organic agricultural products by consistently implementing organic standards and enforcing compliance with the regulations throughout the world.

CONTACT US

USDA AMS NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Ag Stop 0268, Room 2646-S
Washington, DC 20250-0268

Phone: 202-720-3252
Fax: 202-205-7808

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

November 2010

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAMS



www.ams.usda.gov/NOPCostSharing

SHARING THE COSTS

ARE THEY COMPETITIVE?

The cost share programs are *not* competitive. Funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until exhausted.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All farmers, ranchers, and handlers who have received organic certification or a renewal of certification from an accredited certifying agent are eligible to participate. Transitioning farms which have not yet received certification are not eligible.

REIMBURSEMENT LIMITS

Operations may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the cost of certification. The maximum reimbursement is \$750 per year.

OF USDA ORGANIC

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Applicants submit a short form, along with proof of organic certification and an itemized invoice, to their State agency. State agencies (typically State departments of agriculture) help to administer the programs. After verifying applications, State agencies disburse funds to individual organic operations.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE?

Approximately \$6 million has been allocated for fiscal year 2011 (Oct. 1-Sept. 30, 2011). Each State receives an annual budget based on the number of certified operations and past fund usage. All funds must be used within the Federal fiscal year in which they are allocated.

WHAT CAN BE REIMBURSED?

Most certification-related costs are eligible.



Eligible costs include:

- Application fees
- Inspection fees
- Travel /per diem for inspectors
- Postage

Late fees and inspections due to revoked certifications are ineligible.

CERTIFICATION

HOW DO I APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT?

If your operation is already certified organic, then contact your State agency for an application. Some States have application forms available online. Contact information can be found at:



[www.ams.usda.gov/
NOPCostShareProgramParticipants](http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPCostShareProgramParticipants)

If you are seeking organic certification, you can find information on the process for certification at:

[www.ams.usda.gov/
NOApplyingforOrganicCertification](http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOApplyingforOrganicCertification)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM**

Contact the Cost Share Program Manager
Betsy Rakola: betsy.rakola@ams.usda.gov