

# Organics

## Organic Certification Cost Share Program



### Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. The program reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Once certified, organic producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for 50 percent of certification costs each year, up to a maximum of \$500 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees.

### Who is Eligible?

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees during the 2021 and subsequent program year may apply for reimbursement of the incurred costs.

Program Year	Covers expenses paid from . . .	The application deadline is . . . *
2021	Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021	Nov. 1, 2021
2022	Oct. 1, 2021, through Sept. 30, 2022	Oct. 31, 2022
2023	Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023	Oct. 31, 2023

\*OCCSP funds are limited and applications are paid on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications received after all funds are obligated will not be paid.

### Is Certification Required to Participate?

Yes. Organic certification cost share funds are only available to certified organic producers and handlers. Certification must be provided by a **USDA-accredited certifying agent**. If your operation is not currently certified organic and you would like to learn more about the certification process, please visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/organic](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/organic).

### What Costs are Reimbursable?

**Eligible** costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

### What Costs are Not Reimbursable?

**Ineligible** costs include equipment, materials, supplies, transitional certification fees, late fees and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations.

### What is the Maximum Reimbursement Amount?

The maximum per certification scope (crops, livestock, wild crops, handling or State Organic Program fees) is \$500.

### How Do I Apply for a Reimbursement?

You may apply to a participating state agency according to their deadlines, or you may apply directly to one of over 2,100 FSA offices. Applicants must typically submit a one-page application form, W-9 tax form (to participating state agencies), proof of certification and an itemized invoice of certification expenses.

### More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements may apply. For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/organic](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/organic) or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).