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Acting Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**California Department of Public Health**



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

September 11, 2020

TO: ALL CALIFORNIA ORGANIC REGISTRANTS

**RE: NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 2019/2020**

On August 10, 2020, The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), announced changes to the availability of the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) funding and payment calculation for certified organic operations. These changes are required based on expected increases in participation levels and limited funding.

For FY 2020, the reimbursement rate has been revised to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope. This change was due to the limited amount of funding available and will allow a larger number of certified organic operations to receive assistance. If additional funding is authorized at a later time, FSA may provide additional assistance to certified operations that have applied for OCCSP, not to exceed 75 percent of their eligible costs, up to \$750 per scope. This change to the payment calculation and maximum payment amount are applicable to all certified organic operations, regardless of whether they apply through participating State agencies or their FSA county office.

This letter is intended to inform you that you will not have to resubmit another application to the Cost Share Program if you have submitted your application. If you have not applied, please visit the link provided and use the updated application that reflects the new reimbursement rate.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be distributing reimbursement to operations that have been certified by a USDA accredited certifying agent for certification fees and registration fees paid to the CDFA State Organic Program (SOP), and/or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for Organic Processed Product Registration. Reimbursement distributions will be made with the new revised reimbursement rate.

Any organic operation in California that has received or renewed organic certification through the USDA on or between **October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020** may



**apply for reimbursement. Applications must be postmarked or sent in via email no later than November 2nd, 2020. There will be no exceptions.** We encourage applicants to submit their applications as soon as possible after receiving certification to ensure reimbursement.

Applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Please review your application carefully before submitting it. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted. Upon receiving the application please allow up to 60 days for review and approval and an additional 45 days for reimbursement from our Financial Services Branch once funds are released.

To ensure receipt of your application(s) it is recommended that you either 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,

Cost Share Program Coordinator  
California Organic Cost Share Program