



COST SHARE GUIDANCE FOR ORGANIC PRODUCERS & HANDLERS

Guidance

The USDA National Organic Certification Cost Share Program enables certified organic operations to be reimbursed on an annual basis for 50% of their organic certification costs, up to \$500 per scope.

- Only eligible fees paid and incurred between October 1 and September 30 may be reimbursed.
- Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until they have been depleted.
- PCO does not accept or process cost share applications. The applicant must complete and submit their own application.

To read the full Policies and Procedures of the National Organic Program (NOP) for cost share, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occp/index>

Certified producers and handlers may apply through your local FSA office or contact your state's Department of Agriculture Cost Share representative below:

Maryland

Diana Baldwin
Food Quality Assurance Program
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
P: 410-841-5769
F: 410-841-2750
organic.certification@maryland.gov

North Carolina

Heather Barnes
North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture &
Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1020
P: 919-707-3127
F: 919-715-0155
Heather.barnes@ncagr.gov

Virginia

Roz Stein
Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and
Conservation Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
P: 804-786-3951
roz.stein@vdacs.virginia.gov

New Jersey

Nichole Steward
New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
P: 609-292-5576
F: 609-984-2508
OrganicCostShare@ag.nj.gov

Ohio

OEFFA Cost-Share Reimbursement
41 Crosswell Road
Columbus, OH 43214
P: 614-262-2022
costshare@oeffa.org

FSA Only States:

If your operation's address is in one of the states below, your application (form CCC-884) can only be submitted to your county's FSA office.

- Delaware
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Washington DC
- West Virginia

New York

Ashley Christopher
NY Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
10 B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235
P: 518-474-5538
F: 518-457-2716
Ashley.Christopher@agriculture.ny.gov

Pennsylvania

Michele Brookins
PA Dept. of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
P: 717-787-5319
F: 717-787-5643
mbrookins@pa.gov

If your operation is in Pennsylvania or New York, an application will be mailed directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) or New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) by end of August. Once they receive your application, PDA and NYSDAM will contact PCO to submit proof of payment and a copy of your certification on your behalf; you will not need to include copies of paid invoices as an attachment with your application. If you do not receive an application or have questions about how to contact program administrators in other states, please contact the PCO office. (814-422-0251).

OTHER USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE GRANT PROGRAMS

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – This program provides grants to individual state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops (defined as: fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture)). Each state department of agriculture then distribute their grant funds to individual producers of specialty crops in their state.

Contact your Department of Agriculture representative listed above.

NRCS EQIP Organic Initiative Information - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. Funds are available for those transitioning to organic and currently certified organic producers through EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program).

For further information on the program and to apply, visit

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?&cid=nrcs143_008224

Other programs available through NRCS:

- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Health Forests Reserve Program
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program

More information on these and other NRCS programs can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or by contacting your State NRCS Office:

Pennsylvania residents can contact:
Denise Coleman, State Conservationist for Programs
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-237-2216 or denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov

Delaware

Kasey Taylor
302-678-4160
Kasey.taylor@de.usda.gov

Maryland

Terron Hillsman
410-757-0861
Terron.hillsman@md.usda.gov

New Jersey

Julie Hawkins
732-537-6040
Julie.hawkins@nj.usda.gov

New York

Blake Glover
315-477-6504
Blake.glover@ny.usda.gov

North Carolina

Tim Beard
919-873-2101
Tim.beard@nc.usda.gov

Ohio

Terry Cosby
615-255-2475
Terry.cosby@oh.usda.gov

Virginia

Edwin Martinez-Martinez
804-287-1691
Edwin.martinez@va.usda.gov

West Virginia

Jon Bourdon
304-284-7540
Jon.bourdon@wv.usda.gov

To view other NRCS State Office's please visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/>