



Organic Plus Trust Certified Grass-fed Organic Livestock Program Fee Schedule-2023

This fee schedule is applicable for any operation applying for the Organic Plus Trust (OPT) Certified Grass-fed Organic Livestock Program.

A. Program Fees			
	Basic OPT Fee	Amount:	Description
	Current PCO Certified Client	\$300	Current PCO Certified Organic client adding on OPT Grass-fed certification
	Non PCO Certified Organic Client	\$500	Certified Organic client with another agency but applying to PCO for OPT Grass-fed certification; annual fee for the upcoming season
B. Inspection Fees			
	Fee:	Amount:	Description
	Farm / producer Inspections	\$58 / hour	Hourly rate includes time spent on and offsite
	Processor / handler / broker / distributor Inspections	\$65 / hour	Hourly rate includes time spent on and offsite
	Travel time	\$30 / hour	
	All inspection expenses	Actual cost	All expenses including, but not limited to: mileage, airfare, overnight mail, rental car, and other expenses.
	Inspection cancelled by client	Expenses incurred up to the time it was cancelled plus \$100 administrative fee	Applies to inspections cancelled for non-justified reasons 5 days or less from the time of the scheduled inspection, or if a cancellation request is not communicated to the inspector
C. Administrative Fees			
	Fee:	Amount:	Description
	Application Forms	No charge	
	Late Paperwork Submission	\$100	Annual update paperwork submitted more than 10 days past due date
	Late Payment	1.5% interest per month	More than 30 days past due date
	Payment Plan	5% of balance	Assessed on balance to be paid over extended period
	Circumstances not otherwise covered in this fee schedule	\$75 per hour	

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

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Description of Fes and Refund Policy:

- PCO Certification Fees:
 - Program Fees are a fee due annually to PCO with your renewal of certification. It covers basic certification services for the upcoming certification season. This is in addition to the inspection fee.
 - Annual Inspections: Operations are required to have an annual inspection as part of their certification. The final cost for inspection can be highly variable from year to year. Part of the variance is based upon the complexity of the operation inspected, the ability to group with other nearby inspections, the individual inspector assigned, and how long the inspection takes. Operation complexity may consist of things like operation size, length of time certified, number of certified products, whether any international equivalencies are requested, whether there’s parallel uncertified production, whether there’s any on-farm post-harvest handling, past noncompliances, past inspection length, etc. PCO works hard to coordinate inspections in geographic regions to minimize travel time. You can lower your costs by having records and materials close at hand and well-organized when the inspector arrives.

The inspection fee includes the inspector’s time spent in preparation for, execution of, and final production of the inspection report. In addition, travel expenses including time, transportation costs, lodging, meals, etc. will be assessed. Inspections may be announced or unannounced. There is no charge for partial unannounced inspections (i.e., conducted outside of the annual inspection).
 - Inspection Cancellation If you cancel a scheduled inspection with less than 5 days’ notice (from the date of the scheduled inspection), you will be assessed the inspector’s preparation time, reimbursable expenses (travel, lodging, etc.) that have been incurred for the planned trip, as well as an administrative fee of \$100 USD. If the inspector is en route, the client will be billed for travel time, in addition to the above listed costs.
 - Administrative Fees are as described in the table
- Refund Policy:
 - Refund Policy: Currently certified operations wishing to surrender their certification or new applicants withdrawing their application may be eligible for a partial refund. Refunds for certified operations are based on fees paid in the current calendar year and due date of annual update paperwork. Refunds for new applicants are based on the initial review. After the annual update due date, Program fees (section A) may be eligible for a 50% refund. All Inspection fees (section B) and administrative fees (section C) are non-refundable.

Scenario:	Client / Applicant Refund:
Surrender of Certification before March 1 and completed Annual Update paperwork was not submitted	100% of Program fees (section A)
Surrender of Certification before March 1 and completed Annual Update paperwork was submitted	50% of Program fees (section A)
Surrender of Certification after March 1 and Annual Update paperwork was not submitted	50% of Program fees (section A)
Surrender of Certification after March 1 and Annual Update paperwork was submitted	No refund
Withdraw of Application prior to initial review	50% of Program fees (section A)
Withdraw of Application after initial review	No refund
Certification is Denied, Suspended, or Revoked	No refund

This fee schedule is effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

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