**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 up to 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 2020 program year may apply for reimbursement of the incurred costs.

**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.

**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.

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*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.

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For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.