

February 4th Deadline for the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program

February 4, 2022 is the deadline for agricultural producers who are certified organic, or transitioning to organic, to apply for the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP). Signup for OTECP, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), began November 8, 2021.

Certified operations and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. Signup for the 2022 fiscal year will be announced at a later date.

For each year, OTECP covers 25% of a certified operation's eligible certification expenses, up to \$250 per certification category (crop, livestock, wild crop, handling and State Organic Program fee). This includes application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, state organic program fees and more.

Crop and livestock operations transitioning to organic production may be eligible for 75% of a transitional operation's eligible expenses, up to \$750, for each year. This includes fees charged by a certifying agent or consultant for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan.

For both certified operations and transitional operations, OTECP covers 75% of the registration fees, up to \$200, per year, for educational events that include content related to organic production and handling in order to assist operations in increasing their knowledge of production and marketing practices that can improve their operations, increase resilience and expand available marketing opportunities. Additionally, both certified and transitional operations may be eligible for 75% of the expense of soil testing required under the National Organic Program (NOP) to document micronutrient deficiency, not to exceed \$100 per year.

Producers apply through their local FSA office and can also obtain one-on-one support with applications by calling 877-508-8364. The program application and additional information can be found at farmers.gov/otecp.


The November 18, 2022 FSA OTECP webinar can be viewed at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/outreach-and-education/webinars/index> under Archived Webinars.





Additional Organic Support

OTECP builds upon USDA's [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\)](#) which provides cost share assistance of 50%, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope, to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the NOP. Although the application period for OCCSP ended November 1, 2021, FSA will consider late-filed applications through February 4, 2022 for those operations who still wish to apply.

Meanwhile, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently [made improvements to Whole-Farm Revenue Protection](#) to make it more flexible and accessible to organic producers.

To learn more about USDA's broader assistance for organic producers, visit usda.gov/organic.



ORGANIC & TRANSITIONAL EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM				
THE PROGRAM Provides assistance for agricultural producers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic for the following expenses paid in 2020, 2021 and 2022.	 CERTIFIED ORGANIC OPERATIONS	 CROP AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS TRANSITIONING TO ORGANIC	 BOTH CERTIFIED AND TRANSITIONAL OPERATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL EVENTS	 BOTH CERTIFIED AND TRANSITIONAL OPERATIONS FOR SOIL TESTING
ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	25% of certification expenses	75% of eligible expenses	75% of the expense for registration fees	75% of the expense
EXPENSES INCLUDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application fees Inspection fees State organic program fees User fees or certifier sales assessments Postage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees for pre-certification inspections Development of organic systems plan 	Registration fees for virtual or in-person events that provide educational content related to organic production and handling.	Soil tests to document micronutrient deficiency required under the National Organic Program
EXPENSES PER YEAR	Up to \$250 /expense category: Crop, Livestock, Wild Crop, Handling and State Organic Program fee	Up to \$750 each year	Up to \$200 each year	Up to \$100 each year

Indiana Farm Service Agency State Office

5981 Lakeside Blvd
Indianapolis IN 46278

Phone: 317-290-3315
Fax: 855-374-4066

Susan Houston
Acting State Executive Director
susan.houston@usda.gov

Kala Nicholson-Cline
Acting Farm Loan Programs Chief
kala.nicholson-cline@usda.gov

Joshua Oren
Administrative Officer
joshua.oren@usda.gov

Susan Houston
Price Support/Disaster Program Chief
susan.houston@usda.gov

Stephanie Alexander
Conservation/Compliance Program Chief
stephanie.alexander@usda.gov

Susan Houston
Acting Production Adjustment Program Chief
susan.houston@usda.gov

Susan Houston
Acting State Committee
susan.houston@usda.gov

[Indiana Farm Service Agency](#)

[Service Center Locator](#)