1 Overview

A Background

OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Organic certification is obtained through certifying agents accredited by NOP.

For 2023, OCCSP will reimburse 75 percent of a certified operation’s allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of $750 for each of the following categories or “scopes”:

- crops
- wild crops
- livestock
- processing/handling
- State organic program fees.

B Purpose

This notice provides information on the beginning of the sign-up period for 2023 OCCSP and availability of the revised OCCSP Payment Calculator Worksheet.

Disposal Date
September 1, 2023

Distribution
State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices
2 OCCSP Administration

A OCCSP Sign-up Period

FSA County Offices will begin accepting OCCSP applications for the 2023 program year on May 15, 2023. The 2023 program year covers eligible expenses paid by certified organic operations between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023.

B Coordination with State Agencies

FSA will publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov, that will invite State Departments of Agriculture to apply for grants to administer OCCSP for the 2023 program year. If a State Department of Agriculture chooses to participate in OCCSP, both the State Department of Agriculture and FSA County Offices in that State will accept OCCSP applications and make payments to eligible certified operations; however, the producer or handler may only receive cost share assistance from either FSA or the participating State Department of Agriculture. National Office staff will notify the State Office specialists in States where the State Department of Agriculture enters into a grant agreement.

C CCC-884A

Automated OCCSP payment software is unavailable and all OCCSP payments must be calculated using the Excel version of CCC-884A, OCCSP Payment Calculator Worksheet. A revised version of the worksheet is available at https://inside.fsa.usda.gov/program-areas/dfap/special-programs/occsp/index.

See 1-OCCSP:

- paragraph 45 for instructions for downloading, saving, and creating folders for CCC-884A
- paragraph 46 for instructions for completing CCC-884.

Note: The workbook will determine the proper accounting code to use in the online payment software.

D Entering and Processing Payments

FSA County Offices will enter and process OCCSP payments according to 1-OCCSP, paragraph 50.
Notice OCCSP-8

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will ensure that County Offices are notified of the contents of this notice.

For assistance with OCCSP:

- policy questions, contact Kay Niner at kay.niner@usda.gov
- payment questions, contact Jeanne Schmidt at jeanne.schmidt@usda.gov.

B County Office Action

County Offices will begin accepting 2023 OCCSP applications on May 15, 2023.