

For: State and County Offices

2021 OCCSP Sign-Up

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



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 the NOP.

For 2021, OCCSP will reimburse 50 percent of a certified operation’s allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 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 2021 OCCSP and availability of the revised OCCSP Payment Calculator Worksheet.

2 OCCSP Administration

A OCCSP Sign-up Period

FSA County Offices will begin accepting OCCSP applications for the 2021 program year on July 8, 2021. The 2021 program year covers eligible expenses paid by certified organic operations between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2022	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice OCCSP-3

2 OCCSP Administration (Continued)

B Coordination with State Agencies

FSA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov on May 7, 2021, that invited State departments of agriculture to apply for grants to administer OCCSP for the 2021 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 by either FSA or the participating State department of agriculture. The grant application period for State departments of agriculture closes on June 30, 2021. National Office staff will notify the State Office specialists in States where the State Department of Agriculture has entered 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/dafp/special-programs/occsp/index>.

Instructions for downloading, saving, and creating folders for CCC-884A are provided in 1-OCCSP, paragraph 45; paragraph 46 provides 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 follow the procedure in 1-OCCSP, paragraph 50 for entering and processing OCCSP payments.

3 Action

A State Office Action

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

B County Office Action

County Offices will begin accepting 2021 OCCSP applications on July 8, 2021.