UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

For: State and County Offices

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)
Late-Filed Applications for Program Year 2023

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

1 Overview

A Background

The OCCSP signup deadline for the 2023 program year is November 1, 2023. 1-OCCSP, Exhibit 1 delegates authority to SED to review and approve OCCSP applications filed by December 31 of the following program year.

B Purpose

This notice:

- advises State and County Offices that SED's are delegated authority to approve late-filed OCCSP applications for program year 2023 which are filed from November 2, 2023, through February 2, 2024

- provides State and County Offices with instructions on notifying the National Office when SED grants relief for a late-filed application.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2024	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2   Notification

A   State Office Notification Action

If SED determines to grant relief for a late-filed OCCSP application, State Offices will e-mail the calculated payment amount for each scope to both of the following:

- Jeanne Schmidt at **jeanne.schmidt@usda.gov**
- Kay Niner at **kay.niner@usda.gov**.

Note: Copy Christopher Vazquez at **christopher.vazquez@usda.gov** on the e-mail.

B   National Office Notification Action

The National Office will notify the State Office when funds have been allocated to issue the payment.

3   Action

A   State Office Action

State Offices will:

- ensure that County Offices are notified of the contents of this notice

- notify the National Office when SED grants relief for late-filed OCCSP applications as directed in subparagraph 2 A

- contact Kay Niner with questions.

B   County Office Action

County Offices will

- advise interested certified organic producers and handlers of how to submit a late-filed OCCSP application

- process late-filed OCCSP applications according to 1-OCCSP and this notice.