

**For:** State and County Offices

**2022 Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) Signup**

**Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

OTECP provides assistance to certified organic operations, as well as crop and livestock operations, that are transitioning to organic production methods in anticipation of obtaining USDA organic certification. Organic certification is obtained through certifying agents accredited by the USDA National Organic Program.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides information on the beginning of the signup period for 2022 OTECP.

**2 OTECP Administration**

**A OTECP Signup Period**

County Offices will begin accepting OTECP applications for the 2022 program year on May 16, 2022.

The 2022 program year covers eligible expenses paid by certified organic or transitional operations between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
October 1, 2022	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice PDAP-13

### 2 OTECP Administration (Continued)

#### B OTECP Application

Applicants must submit a completed FSA-883 according to 1-PDAP, paragraphs 261 and 262. Applications can be submitted to any County Office in person, by mail, electronically (by FAX, email, or other authorized method), or online.

County Offices will follow procedure in 1-PDAP, paragraph 263, for reviewing and processing OTECP applications.

According to 1-PDAP, subparagraph 261 A, cost share assistance is provided on a factored basis until all available funds are obligated. However, for 2022 payments, all eligible applications will be paid as they are received.

### 3 Action

#### A State Office Action

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

For assistance with:

- OTECP policy questions, contact Chris Vazquez
- OTECP application software questions, contact Wes Jennings
- OTECP payment questions, contact Jeanne Schmidt.

#### B County Office Action

County Offices will begin accepting 2022 OTECP applications on May 16, 2022.