



**July 2023**

Dear Pennsylvania, Certified Organic Operator,

We hope this letter finds you well, the following are a few updates that may be of interest to you.

**Changes to the 2023 Organic Certification Cost Share Program**

The USDA Farm Services Agency announced the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) as part of USDA's broader effort to support organic producers and in response USDA/FSA will cover up to **75% of costs associated with organic certification, up to \$750 maximum**. This year the Farm Service Agency increased the cost share amount, which helps organic producers cover organic certification costs, to the maximum amount allowed by statute.

USDA certified organic operations that are certified or receiving continuation of certification during the period **October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023**, by a USDA-accredited certifier, may apply for the cost share reimbursement.

A copy of your certificate or renewal certificate is no longer required for the cost share application, but please be certain to enter your certificate number on the enclosed application. You will need to provide invoices and proof of payment with your completed application or arrange for your certifier to supply that information to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. This information is necessary to verify costs and process your application for reimbursement.

All completed applications must be postmarked by **October 31, 2023**, and mailed to:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Market Development  
ATTN: Michele L. Brookins  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Applications also are available online at [agriculture.pa.gov/agbiz](http://agriculture.pa.gov/agbiz) and may be submitted by email no later than **October 31, 2023**. Please note, you will also need to submit your proof of payment, which can be done electronically as well, by emailing to [RA-AgBusiness@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AgBusiness@pa.gov).

We recommend completing your application as soon as possible as reimbursements will be made on a first come, first serve basis, while funds are available. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Brookins at [mbrookins@pa.gov](mailto:mbrookins@pa.gov), by phone at (717) 787-5319, or at [RA-AgBusiness@pa.gov](mailto:RA-AgBusiness@pa.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as we work to build a sustainable agricultural industry for both farmers and consumers.