



July 2021

Dear Pennsylvania Certified Organic Operator,

This letter is to notify you of the USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Program for the 2020-2021 program year. USDA certified organic operations that are certified or receiving continuation of certification during the period **October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021**, by a USDA-accredited certifier may apply for cost-share reimbursement.

Qualified applicants may **receive 50 percent of eligible fees paid, up to a maximum of \$500**, for each eligible scope of certification. This rate was announced by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in 2020 and will remain in effect until 2023. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will begin processing applications pending final approval of funding from USDA FSA.

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 to process your application for reimbursement.

All completed applications must be postmarked by **October 31, 2021**, and mailed to:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
ATTN: Michele Brookins
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Applications also are available online at agriculture.pa.gov/agbiz and may be submitted by email no later than **October 31, 2021**. Please note, you will need to submit your proof of payment, which can be done electronically as well, by emailing to RA-AgBusiness@pa.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl L. Cook".

Cheryl L. Cook
Deputy Secretary