



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP)

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide cost share assistance to producers, processors, distributors or other handlers of organic agricultural products.

Payments are limited to 75% (seventy-five percent) of an individual producer's certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 (seven hundred and fifty dollars) per certificate or category of certification, per year. Eligible operations may receive one reimbursement per year per certificate or certification scope (if one certificate includes multiple scope certifications). Each certificate may be reimbursed separately. Likewise, each category of certification may be reimbursed separately.

Deadline: Applications MUST be received by Close of Business (5:00 pm CT) Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

The cost share program will be conducted on a first come, first served basis.

Eligibility

- Texas-based organic producers (crops, wild crops, and/or livestock) and/or handlers are eligible to participate.
- Operations must possess current USDA organic certification to be eligible to receive reimbursements. This means operations either must have successfully received their initial USDA organic certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent, or must have incurred expenses related to the renewal of their USDA organic certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Operations with suspended or revoked certifications are ineligible for reimbursement. The applicable NOP regulations and resources for certification are available on the NOP website at www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

Allowable Costs

- Application fees
- Inspection costs, including travel costs and per diem for organic inspectors
- User fees/ sales assessments
- Postage
- USDA organic certification costs, including fees necessary to access international markets with which AMS has equivalency agreements or arrangements
- State Organic Program fees

Unallowable Costs

- Late fees
- Inspections due to violations of NOP regulations
- Inspections due to violations of State Organic Program requirements
- Charges related to non-USDA certifications
- Other labeling programs
- Transitional certifications
- Materials and supplies
- Equipment
- Membership fees
- Consultant fees



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WARNING: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is also offering this National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). Eligible entities described above may only receive ONE cost-share per organic certificate or category of certification from TDA or FSA, not both. TDA will work with FSA to ensure duplicate awards are not made. If a duplicate award is made, FSA will be the agency to seek collections. Collections may include repayment from the applicant, a reduction in other FSA payments, or a reduction in federal tax payments.

Contact Information:

Denise Rodgers

(512) 463-4406

Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov

Applications and additional information can be found on TDA's website.