



2016 Cost Share - A Refund of Organic Certification Fees!

Funded through the USDA farm bill, the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program helps farmers, handlers and processors afford the expense of organic certification by reimbursing them for up to 75% of their certification costs, with a maximum of \$750 per scope of operation. Clients with more than one certification scope may be eligible for more than one refund!

Who Qualifies?

Organic operations that receive and/or update their organic certification between October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016 **AND** have paid fees that qualify for reimbursement.

For WSDA Organic Program clients, qualifying costs include those fees designated under chapter 16-157 WAC as "Annual Fees", "New Applicant Fees", "Application Fees", "Site Fees", "Certification Fees", "Inspection Fees" and "Expedite Fees." *Late fees, fees for additional inspections to determine compliance, and transitional certification costs are not eligible for cost-share reimbursement.*

How to Receive Reimbursement in Washington State

1. Complete a Statewide Payee Registration – Washington State Organic Cost Share form.

- ✓ The form is available on our website at: <http://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/organic/> - **Look under "Hot Topics"!**
- ✓ This form is only needed every two years, provided no changes to your business information occurs. Submit the form annually to report updates to your business information.
- ✓ **The taxpayer and business information on the form must match the information provided in your certification file.**
- **If you are not certified by the WSDA Organic Program**, but your business is located in Washington State and is certified by another USDA accredited certifier, submit proof of organic certification and an itemized receipt of the certification fees paid.
- If your certified business is located outside of Washington, contact your local state department of agriculture about cost-share.

2. Send the Statewide Payee Registration Form directly to WSDA:

- ✓ **Scan and email** completed, signed forms to: organic@agr.wa.gov
- ✓ **Fax** forms, Attention: Organic Program, to: (360) 902-2087
- ✓ **Mail** forms to: Washington State Dept of Agriculture, Attention: Organic Program, PO Box 42560, Olympia WA 98504-2560

Washington's deadline for 2016 Cost Share is December 1, 2016.

Reimbursements will be approved on a "first received and complete, first to get approved" basis.
Refund processing can take up to ten weeks after a complete form is received.

Questions? Contact WSDA Organic Program, (360) 902-1805, organic@agr.wa.gov

Find additional information about the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program at:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/occsp>

