



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

December 7, 2011

**TO: ALL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS
ACCREDITED CERTIFYING AGENTS OPERATING IN CALIFORNIA
ALL CALIFORNIA ORGANIC REGISTRANTS**

RE: NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) is providing funds to assist with the cost of organic certification under the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Accordingly, the California Department of Food and Agriculture will be distributing reimbursement to operations that have been certified by a USDA accredited certifying agent.

The NOP currently recognizes four categories of certification: crops, wild crops, livestock, and processing/handling. Operations may receive one reimbursement per certificate or category of certification per year. Eligible entities will be reimbursed up to 75 percent of their organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750. Any organic operation in California that has received or renewed organic certification on or between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012 may apply for reimbursement.

In order to receive reimbursement, applicants must submit a completed Federal Organic Cost Share Application (ORG-106) along with a copy of certification, copies of associated expense invoices required to obtain and/or maintain certification, and a completed Payee Data Record Form (STD 204).

Cost Share applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Only complete and accurate applications with an **original signature** will be processed. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted. When the funds provided by USDA have been exhausted, no more applications will be processed.

Electronic copies of this letter and supporting material can be found at the following Internet address: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&_c/organic.html. For additional information, please contact Sharon Parsons at (916) 900-5202.

Sincerely,

Steve Patton
Chief

