



## Organic Certification Cost Share – A Refund of Organic Certification Fees!

The National Organic Certification Cost Share Program is authorized through the US Farm Bill. The program allows certified organic operations to be reimbursed up to 50% of qualifying certification fees, with a maximum of \$500 per scope.\*

### Who Qualifies?

Organic operations who receive initial certification or renew their certification this year qualify for cost share. Reimbursement is available for fees paid towards organic certification between October 1 and September 30.

If you are a WSDA certified business and participated in the cost share program last year, WSDA will automatically issue your refund once funding is received from USDA!

#### Refund Amount:

50% of certification fees, with a maximum of \$500 per scope.\*

#### Eligible Scopes:

Crop  
Livestock  
Wild Crop  
Processing/Handling

#### Qualifying Fees:

New application  
Renewal  
Annual inspection  
Site application  
Land assessment  
New product  
New scope

*Late fees and fees for additional inspections to determine compliance are not eligible for reimbursement.*

**If you are not certified by WSDA, but your business is located in Washington State,** contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office about cost share reimbursement.

**If your certified business is located outside of Washington,** contact your state’s department of agriculture or Farm Service Agency (FSA) office about cost share opportunities in your state.

\*The USDA Farm Service Agency reduced the 2020 reimbursement rate from 75% of qualifying fees with a maximum of \$750 to 50% with a maximum of \$500 per scope.

# Organic Certification Cost Share

## How do I apply?

Does WSDA Organic Program certify your business and did you receive a cost share reimbursement from WSDA last year?

## If you answered “YES”

**You do not need to do anything further.** Once funding is received by USDA, WSDA will automatically issue your cost share refund based on the fees you paid between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020.

## If you answered “NO”

You must apply for a Statewide Vendor account with the Office of Financial management. Information about the how to register for an account and the necessary forms are located on the Office of Financial Management website: [ofm.wa.gov/payee](https://ofm.wa.gov/payee).

Please apply early as it may take several weeks to complete the registration process.

**Once you have completed the registration process with the Office of Financial Management, send WSDA Organic Program ([Organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Organic@agr.wa.gov)) an email or letter referencing the cost share program and including the following information:**

- 1.) Your WSDA Organic Certification Number
- 2.) Your Statewide Vendor Account (SWV) Number
- 3.) The account name, as it appears on your SWV account
- 4.) The address (Street, City, State, and Zip) as it appears on your SWV Account

**WSDA Organic Program is unable to process your cost share reimbursement until the above information is emailed or mailed to our office.**

## Making changes

If you need to make address changes or other business updates to an existing Statewide Vendor account, refer to the Office of Financial Management’s website ([ofm.wa.gov/payee](https://ofm.wa.gov/payee)) for instructions and the necessary forms. If you make any changes to your account, contact WSDA Organic Program once you receive notification the changes have been approved.

## Don’t delay!

New or updated Statewide Vendor Applications must be completed by December 1st. Cost share is approved on a “first received and complete, first to get approved” basis.

***WSDA Organic Program encourages all certified operations to participate in the organic certification cost share program, and our team is available to help you apply!***

**Questions?** Contact WSDA Organic Program at (360) 902-1805, [Organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Organic@agr.wa.gov)

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