



National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Instructions

The Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008 authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide \$22 million in cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products in obtaining certification under the USDA National Organic Program. This program has been extended for the 2010-2011 year. The Iowa Organic Program of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) will administer the dissemination of these funds to eligible Iowa organic producers and processors.

Payments to eligible producers will be limited to 75% of an individual producer's or handler's certification costs up to a maximum of \$750. Individual producers and processors will be reimbursed for costs incurred for **certifications issued from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011**. Applications for cost share funds will be reimbursed in the order they are received and until the funds are exhausted or the eligibility period ends, whichever comes first. Please send in your application materials as soon as possible after you receive your certificate.

Please submit the following items:

1. National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Application Form;
2. Substitute W 9/Vendor Update Form (Complete Box A or B, whichever is applicable), and be sure to sign and date it at the bottom of the page;
3. **Copy of current Certificate of Organic Operation** (date of annual update on certificate may be any date from **October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011**); and
4. **Itemized statement of fees paid** from your certifier, **or a copy of checks** showing fees paid for application, inspection, certification costs, and user fees.

Deadline: Application materials should be in our office by **November 15, 2011**.

Mail to:

**Iowa Department of Agriculture (IDALS)
Organic Certification Program
Wallace Building, 502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319**

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Iowa Organic Certification Program at 515-281-7656.