CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE
Karen Ross, Secretary

November 16, 2015

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) has provided 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 scopes of certification: crops, wild crops, livestock, and processing/handling. Operations may receive one reimbursement per year per applicable certification scope and operation type. Eligible entities will be reimbursed up to 75 percent of their organic certification costs, not to exceed $750 per category. Any organic operation in California that has received or renewed organic certification on or between **October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016** may apply for reimbursement. **Applications must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2016. There will be no exceptions.**

In order to receive reimbursement, applicants must submit a **completed Federal Organic Cost Share Application (ORG-106), a copy of your certification, copies of associated paid 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. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will be returned and must be resubmitted. Please review the Instructions page on the back of the application before completing the application. Submit completed applications to:

Department of Food and Agriculture
Organic Cost Share Program
ATTN: Sharon Parsons
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
sparsons@cdfa.ca.gov

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** under Cost Share Application. For additional information, please contact Sharon Parsons at (916) 900-5202 or by e-mail at sparsons@cdfa.ca.gov.

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NOV 18 2015

Sincerely,

Sharon Parsons

Sharon Parsons
Program Coordinator
California Organic Cost Share Program
Enclosures