



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

July 5, 2011

Dear Wisconsin Organic Producers & Handlers:

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2011 Organic Certification Cost-Share Program. These funds provide cost-share assistance to producers or handlers of organic agricultural products who are currently certified by a USDA/NOP Accredited Certifying Agent.

Under the 2011 program, eligible producers or handlers may receive reimbursement for 75 percent of their certification costs up to a maximum of \$750.00. If you are certified in more than one certification category (e.g. crops, livestock, or handler), you are eligible for up to \$750 for each category. Reimbursable certification costs must be incurred during the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 (the federal fiscal year), and can include any certification related expenses, including inspection fees and user fees. Any invoices paid between the inclusive dates are eligible for reimbursement regardless of which year's certification they are applied to. The deadline for application is October 31, 2011.

To apply for reimbursement, please complete and return the following:

- **The Organic Certification Cost-Share Application Form**
- **The W-9 form**
- **A copy of your current Organic Certificate from your certifier**
- **A copy of the itemized paid invoices received from your certifier indicating the date of payment (we cannot accept copies of checks).**

Following receipt of your application and required documents, we will contact your certifying agency to confirm certification and payment prior to reimbursement. Please note the time between submission of your forms and when you receive payment from DATCP may be several months, due to the requirement to confirm certification through the NOP approved certifier.

You may complete the attached forms and apply for reimbursement at any time prior to October 31, 2011. Reimbursements under this program will be on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are exhausted or until the October 31st deadline, whichever comes first. Please keep in mind that processing of your reimbursement request will not start until all requested documents have been received by DATCP. Any incomplete applications will be returned, and will lose their place in line. Therefore, it is very important all information is included, and that the applications are filled out accurately and signed. When the funds provided to Wisconsin by USDA have been expended no more applications will be processed.

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

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The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection values your contribution to the vitality of Wisconsin agriculture and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this support for organic farmers, processors and handlers. We have established a private sector Organic Advisory Council to support this rapidly growing sector. If you are interested in becoming involved, or would like to talk with an Advisory Council member, please visit our website (<http://datcp.wi.gov/> and search for "organic agriculture") or contact our organic agriculture specialist Laura Paine at 608-224-5120 or laura.paine@wi.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Brancel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Brancel
Secretary