2024 Organic Certification Cost Share Program Application Period Open

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 3, 2024 Contact: Dan Richter, Public Information Officer, (608) 419-5352 dan.richter@wisconsin.gov

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites organic food processors and producers to apply for reimbursement of costs related to organic certification through the USDA's Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) through October 31, 2024.

Farms and businesses that produce, process, or package certified organic agricultural products are eligible to be reimbursed for 75 percent of certification-related costs – up to \$750 per scope of certification – for eligible expenses paid during October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Farms or businesses must be currently certified or be actively seeking certification through an accredited certifier during that time and be located in Wisconsin.

Application materials and instructions are available on <u>DATCP's website</u>. Applications can be mailed to DATCP-DAD, Organic Cost Share Program, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708; emailed to <u>datcporganiccostshare@wi.gov</u>; or submitted through an <u>online form</u>. Proof of certification and payment are required to process reimbursement payments. Certifiers may provide DATCP with this supporting documentation but certifying agencies must agree to do this. First-time applicants will also need to complete and submit a W-9 and a new supplier form.

Applications may be submitted without supporting documentation or new applicant forms, and applicants or their certifier may submit these documents at a later date via mail, email, or online form. Questions about this program or the application process should be directed to Andrew Bernhardt, DATCP Organic Agriculture Specialist, at <u>dateporganiccostshare@wi.gov</u> or (608) 572-0512.

About the Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Funding for this popular program originated in the 2002 Federal Farm Bill and was renewed in the 2014 Federal Farm Bill. Funding comes from the federal government through the USDA National Organic Program. DATCP administers the funding in Wisconsin.

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