

Organic Certification Cost Share Program Information Sheet

- The Organic Certification Cost Share Program provides financial benefits to all certified organic Texas businesses. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide cost share assistance to producers, processors, distributors or other handlers of organic agricultural products.
- **ELIGIBILITY:** Producers and other certified businesses whose initial certifications or annual updates are issued between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009 are eligible for partial reimbursement of their certification costs. Exception: Producers or other certified businesses that previously received a cost-share reimbursement for a specific certification period are not eligible for additional reimbursement for the same certification year.
- Payments are limited to 75 percent of a business' certification costs up to a maximum payment of \$750.00 per year
- The cost share program will be conducted on a first come, first served basis. Once the funds provided by USDA are exhausted, the cost share program will be suspended.
- To apply for a partial reimbursement of certification costs, you must complete the Federal Organic Certification Cost Share Application (ROR-619) and have a Texas Payee Identification Number.
- If you have applied to the Cost Share program before, your Texas Payee Identification Number is on file, and a new payee identification form is not needed. **If you do not already have a Texas Payee Identification Number, you will need to submit a Texas Application for Payee Identification Number (AP-152) (enclosed) along with the reimbursement application.**
- **The deadline for submitting applications for reimbursement is October 31, 2009.**
- Submit your application to:
Texas Department of Agriculture
Organic Certification Program
P O Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711
- If you have any questions about the organic certification program, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-TELL TDA (1-800-835-5832) or (512) 463-7615. We can be reached by email at organic@tda.state.tx.us. You can also visit our website at www.tda.state.tx.us for more information.