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Arkansas Department of Agriculture Opens Organic Certification Cost Share Program

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications from producers for reimbursement under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Organic certification fees paid between the dates of October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 are eligible. Applications for reimbursement are available, [here](#), and are due by November 2, 2020.

Reimbursement for 50% of certification costs up to \$500 is available for operators who have been certified by a USDA accredited certifying agent. Certification costs that have already been reimbursed through the USDA-Farm Service Agency or other agencies are not eligible. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture administers the USDA National Organic Program Organic Certification Cost Share through funding provided by USDA.

“Anything we can do to help offset costs for Arkansas producers is a win for agriculture, which is our state’s top industry,” says Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward. “We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the USDA on this program that provides important cost-share assistance to an expanding sector of Arkansas’s agricultural industry,” says Ward.

According to the latest data available from the USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service, organic production in Arkansas has grown significantly since 2012. From 2012 to 2017, the number of farms selling organically produced commodities increased from 32 farms to 69. Sales of organic products increased from \$789,000 in 2012 to over \$24 million in 2017, an increase of almost 3,000 percent.

For questions about the application or the reimbursement process, contact Karen Reynolds at 501-529-1630 or karen.reynolds@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov.