

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE Central Office

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August 13, 2014

Dear Organic Producer:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), under the National Organic Certification Cost Assistance program, will make cost-share funds available again this year for organic certification costs incurred between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2014.

Individual producers and handlers may apply now for reimbursement of costs incurred for certification of organic products. Payments to eligible producers will be limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's or handler's certification costs up to a maximum of \$750. If you have multiple certifications (crops and livestock, or production and processing/handling for example) you may be eligible for more than one cost share reimbursement. Applications for cost share funds will be reimbursed in the order they are received until the funds are exhausted or the eligibility period ends, whichever comes first. Therefore, it is important that The Division of Agriculture receive your competed application for reimbursement, and all required documents (see below) as soon as possible.

Please submit the following items with your application:

- National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program Application Form (enclosed)
- Copy of all itemized invoices showing fees assessed for certification.

Your application must contain your Employer Identification Number, Social Security Number, or a Form W-9. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for correction.

Mail to:

Alaska Division of Agriculture Re: Organic Certification Cost-Share Program 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12 Palmer, Alaska 99645-6735

Sincerely,

Barbara Hanson

Agricultural Inspector

Cc: Amy Pettit