

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

## Farm Service Agency Programs for the Organic Producer: Basic Information



1

1

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

## Available Organic Programs



2

2

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

- Organic Transition Initiative (NRCS)
- Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP-AMS)
- Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance Program (TOGA-RMA)
- Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP-FSA)



3

3

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Available programs not specific to organic production

- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP-FSA)
- Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL- FSA)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL- FSA)
- Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC- FSA)
- Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC-FSA)
- Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (Livestock, Honeybees, Farm-Raised Fish; ELAP-FSA)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP-FSA)
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP- FSA)
- Emergency Relief Program 2022 (ERP 2022-FSA)
- Conservation Programs (FSA/NRCS- contact your local office for more information)

4

4

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

## Organic Transition Initiative (OTI-NRCS)

- Through the [Transition to Organic Partnership Program \(TOPP\)](#), USDA provides regionally-based farmer training and education. Partnering organizations in six regions connect farmers with local mentors and provide education and technical assistance on agronomy, certification, extension, conservation planning, business development regulations, and marketing .
- **Six organic experts will develop regional networks who will host hands-on organic training and fielding organic-related staff questions.**

5

5

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

## Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)

- RMA's [Transitional Organic Grower Assistance Program \(TOGA\)](#) provides premium assistance to agricultural producers who have purchased crop insurance coverage for crops in transition to organic or a certified organic grain or feed crop.
- Producers will automatically receive the premium assistance on the premium billing statements for the 2023 reinsurance year, which covers applicable policies with sales closing dates from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
- Premium assistance will automatically apply to those eligible insurance policies with sales closing dates that have passed.
- Producers interested in the TOGA program, should visit with their local crop insurance agent for more information [Agent Locator | Search \(usda.gov\)](#).

6

6

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance (TOGA-RMA)

- Agriculture producers who have crop insurance coverage on crops in transition to organic or a certified organic grain or feed crop are eligible for premium assistance from USDA for the 2023 reinsurance year.
- RMA's TOGA provides premium assistance to producers who insure their crop during the 2023 reinsurance year. Eligible producers will receive a discount on their premium billing statement:
  - For crops in transition to certified organic, producers can receive 10 percentage points of premium subsidy;
  - For organic grain and feed crops, producers can receive \$5 premium assistance per insured acre; and
  - For Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) policies covering any number of crops in transition to organic or crops with the certified organic practice producers can receive 10 percentage points of premium subsidy. Producers who have additional individual crop insurance policies will also receive the applicable premium assistance on those policies

7

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance (TOGA-RMA)

- Producers will automatically receive the premium assistance on the premium billing statements for the 2023 reinsurance year, which covers applicable policies with sales closing dates from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

8

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP-AMS)

- Network of regional partner organizations that:
  - Connect transitioning farmers with mentors for at least one year after certification.
  - Build paid mentoring networks to share practical insights and advice.
  - Provide community building opportunities to include:
    - Train-the-mentor support
    - Technical assistance
    - Workshops and field days covering topics including organic production practices, certification, conservation planning, business development (including navigating the supply chain), regulations, and marketing
  - Help producers overcome technical, cultural, and financial shifts during and following certification.
  - Engage educational and training institutions (including crop advisors and extension agents) on organic workforce training and education and future human capital planning.

9

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

- Previously (until 2016) administered through State Ag Agencies (MDARD)
- Provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification
- eligible to receive reimbursement for 75 percent of certification costs for program year 2023, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling
- Must have a valid organic certificate at the time of application

10

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

- What expenses are eligible?
  - Eligible costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage
- What certification costs are ineligible?
  - Ineligible costs include equipment, materials, supplies, transitional certification fees, late fees, and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violation
- Funding limited and on a first-come, first-served basis

**KEEP IN MIND- THIS IS REIMBURSEMENT FOR PAID EXPENSES**

11

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### What do I need to do to apply?

- Complete and submit the following to the local FSA service center:
  - CCC-884
  - USDA organic certificate
  - Itemized invoice showing expenses paid (if possible, which scope the expense is tied to)
  - AD-2047, if not previously filed
  - SF-3881, if not previously filed
  - CCC-901, Part A, if not previously filed and the applicant is an entity

August 2019

12

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Applicant Responsibilities (cont.)

- Application packages are **not** complete and CCC-884 **cannot** be approved unless applicants have provided documentation to support the scopes and associated costs entered on CCC-884. The applicant is responsible for providing documentation for the associated costs for each selected scope in a manner that can be understood by the CCC representative.

Program Year	COVERS expenses paid from...	AND the application period is...
2023	October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023	*--October 1, 2022, through November 1, 2023 (late-filed applications will be accepted if funds are available).--*

August 2019 13

13

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Late-Filed Applications

- What if I missed the November 1, 2023 application deadline?**
  - County Offices will accept late-filed application packages after the application deadlines in subparagraph A if the application is filed by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - If an application is submitted after the end of the application period, the County Office shall accept the late-filed application and consider it to be a request for programmatic relief according to 7-CP

August 2019 14

14

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- Provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that:**
  - result in lower yields or crop losses
  - prevents crop planting
  - reduces quality for limited approved crops
- Who is eligible?**
  - landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop and is entitled to an ownership share of that crop

15

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- What crops are covered?**
  - Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available

16

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- How much does it cost?**
  - For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.
  - Producers who elect higher levels of coverage must also pay a premium equal to:
    - The producer's share of the crop; times
    - The number of eligible acres devoted to the crop; times
    - The approved yield per acre; times
    - The coverage level; times
    - The average market price; times
    - A 5.25 percent premium fee.

17

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- How much does NAP pay out on an indemnity for a catastrophic loss?**
  - Payment limit of \$125,000 for CAT level (50/55) coverage and \$300,000 for buy-up per individual or entity

18

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture

## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

- Is there a difference in NAP coverage for Organic producers?
  - FSA may establish an organic average market price for a crop within a State to reflect the different price a producer receives because the crop qualifies as "organic" according to the National Organic Program regulations at 7 CFR Part 205.
  - NAP coverage based on organic average market prices is available under **both** basic 50/55 coverage and buy-up coverage for eligible crops.

19

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture

## FACT Sheets

- OCCSP: [www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/organic-certification-cost-share-program/pdf/2023/occsp\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2023.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/organic-certification-cost-share-program/pdf/2023/occsp_fact_sheet_2023.pdf)
- NAP: [www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/factSheets/2023/fsa\\_nap\\_noninsuredcropdisasterassistance\\_factsheet\\_2023.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/factSheets/2023/fsa_nap_noninsuredcropdisasterassistance_factsheet_2023.pdf)
- TOGA: [www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/rma-toga-factsheet-5-31-22.pdf](http://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/rma-toga-factsheet-5-31-22.pdf)
- TOPP: [www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/TOPPFactSheet.pdf](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/TOPPFactSheet.pdf)
- OTI: [www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/organic-transition-initiative-fact-sheet-april-2023.pdf](http://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/organic-transition-initiative-fact-sheet-april-2023.pdf)

20

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture

## Other resources:

- Service Center Locator: [www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator)
- All things USDA Organic: [www.usda.gov/topics/organic](http://www.usda.gov/topics/organic)
- Farmers.gov: [www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic](http://www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic)
- USDA: [www.usda.gov/topics/organic](http://www.usda.gov/topics/organic)

21