



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Division of Marketing

Tom Slade
Director

North Carolina Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Dear Organic Grower,

October 3, 2009

Section 10301 of the 2007 Farm bill directed The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement a new Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.

This program is designed to assist the organic grower with the cost of becoming certified under the National Organic Program. For a farm to be eligible for this program it must be located within the state of North Carolina and must be certified by a business or organization that is accredited by the USDA to certify organic operations

The NCDA & CS will pay 75% of the cost of certification up to a maximum of \$750 to the certifying agency for any certification occurring between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010. Funding for this program comes from a USDA grant to the NCDA & CS. The assistance is available on a first come first serve basis until the funds are depleted.

Please note that if your gross annual income from organic farming is less than \$5,000 per year you do not have to be certified under the national organic standards. However, you should continue using organic production practices in your business as if you are a certified operation.

To take advantage of this offer please visit www.ncdaorganic.org, download the form, fill it out entirely and mail back to the address at the bottom with copies of the receipts and the certification. The form is also being sent to you for your use as well. These forms must be turned in by September 30, 2009.

Should you have any questions please call me at 919-733-7887 ext. 234 or email me at Kevin.Hardison@ncagr.gov

Sincerely;

Kevin Hardison,
Agricultural Marketing Specialist

