



## **Organic Cost Share Program**

The National Organic Program (NOP) has made funding available through the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has entered into a cooperative agreement with USDA to administer the program in Virginia. Virginia will have \$50,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009. The year began October 1, 2008 and will run through September 30, 2009.

This program will provide reimbursement to eligible producers and processors for 75 percent of their certification costs up to \$750. These reimbursements will be for organic producers or processors who have successfully completed their organic certification from a USDA accredited certifying agency between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds have been depleted.

### ***Frequently asked questions about the October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009 Organic Cost Share Program:***

*Question: When a farmer pays his organic certification fees in July 2008, but his inspection and certification doesn't take place until after the October 1, 2008 start date, what date determines eligibility for cost share? The language in the agreement references the word "incurred" which seems to imply "paid"?*

FINAL INCURMENT OF COSTS IS WHEN THE CERTIFICATE OR DECISION LETTER IS PROVIDED TO THE ORGANIC OPERATION. RECEIVING THE CERTIFICATION DECISION IS COMPLETING THE PROCESS AND VERIFIES THE ELIGIBLE DATE FOR THE COST SHARE REIMBURSEMENT.

*Question: When a farm operation has both a crop inspection and also a processing inspection within the October 1, 2008 - September 31, 2009 time frame, does that allow for reimbursement of 75% for each inspection?*

YES, IF 2 SEPARATE CERTIFICATION DECISIONS ARE MADE, ONE FOR PRODUCER AND ONE FOR HANDLER, THEN THEY WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR TWO SEPARATE COST SHARE REIMBURSEMENTS

NO, IF THERE IS ONLY 1 "DECISION" (CERTIFICATE).