USDA Assistance for Certified Organic or Transitioning to Organic Production

What Assistance is Available?

- Short-term contracts to assist eligible producers with installing priority core organic conservation practices, such as Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Forage Harvest Management.
- Other appropriate conservation practices that improve the condition of the soil, reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, or improve pollinator habitat and grazing land health are also available.
- Technical assistance is available to the following eligible producers:
  - Existing certified organic producers in carrying out conservation practices
  - Producers transitioning their farm to an organic system willing to implement conservation practices for certified organic production
- Financial assistance to reduce producer costs

How Does a Producer Apply?

- Contact a local USDA NRCS office or Conservation District Office: ***http://offices.sc.egov.usda***
- Certified producers must provide a copy of their Organic System Plan and producer's transitioning their farm must provide the name and contact information of the organization through which they are pursuing organic certification.
- Complete an application for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

When Do I Apply?

- Now! Applications are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year with periodic pooling dates to evaluate, rank, prioritize, and select applicants.

Are All Organic Producers Eligible?

- The Organic Initiative is only available to producers with at least $1,000 in gross receipts.
- New and beginning farmers, African Americans, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians or Pacific Islanders are eligible for additional incentive payments under this program.

For Additional Information...

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USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

For Spanish language assistance call 1-866-232-0690

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February 2011