

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Tommy Irvin, Commissioner
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW
Atlanta, GA 30334
www.agr.georgia.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 24, 2008

For information contact: Arty Schronce or Yao Seidu at 404-656-3689

Organic Farming

National Program May Help Cover Certification Cost

Need help financing your organic certification? You may be able to qualify for as much as 75 percent of the cost (up to \$750) under the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

If you are interested, contact Dr. James Sutton, Organic Program Manager for the Georgia Department of Agriculture, by e-mail at jsutton@agr.state.ga.us or by phone at 706-595-3408.

Applications will be mailed to certified organic growers, processors and handlers who express an interest.

Organic producers, handlers and processors must be certified by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited certifying agent. The cost share program is on a first-come, first-served basis for qualified applicants. Applications must be submitted no later than September 30, 2009. Interested persons should apply as soon as possible because only \$25,000 is available. Certification costs must be incurred during the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

Funding for the cost share program is administered by The National Organic Program of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in cooperation with the state agencies agreeing to participate. These agencies determine the qualification of each applicant.

###