



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DON KOIVISTO
DIRECTOR

April 8, 2009

Dear Organic Handlers/Producers:

In March 2009, Michigan signed an amendment to a cooperative agreement with USDA's National Organic Program to reimburse eligible Michigan organic producers and handlers for a portion of their certification costs for October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

If you are a producer or handler and wish to apply for reimbursement under this program, please complete or attach the following:

- ❑ Cost share application
- ❑ Copy of certificate or renewal that you received from your certifying agent dated between **October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008.**
- ❑ Support documentation for verification of the cost of certification.
- ❑ W-9 form– Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification.

Your operation must have been inspected and certified by a National Organic Program accredited certifying agent during this time period. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is authorized to pay up to 75% of the certification costs up to \$750.00. **Membership dues and chapter dues do not qualify for reimbursement under the cost share program.**

FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED WILL DELAY PROCESSING OF YOUR APPLICATION. APPLICATIONS FOR OTHER TIME PERIODS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THIS OFFICE ALONG WITH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON OR BEFORE JUNE 8, 2009 TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (517) 373-0280.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Bess, Organic Program Manager
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division