



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

May 2012

Dear Organic Handler or Producer:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is pleased to announce that certification cost share assistance will be available to eligible Michigan organic handlers and producers for the period of **October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012**. The program is offered on behalf of the USDA National Organic Cost Share Program which is authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill.

This year we have been given special authorization to accept applications for those who missed the opportunity to participate in certification cost share assistance for the period of October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. You also welcome to apply for cost share reimbursement for the period of October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

Enclosed please find an application for cost share reimbursement as well as instructions on how to register as a vendor for the State of Michigan, if you have not previously done so. Your operation must have been inspected and certified by a National Organic Program (NOP) accredited certifying agent during this specified time period in order to qualify. MDARD is authorized to pay 75% of the certification and user costs up to \$750 **per certification**. Allowable costs are indicated on the enclosed instruction pages. A separate application and documentation is required **for each certification and year** for which you are requesting reimbursement.

You must register as a vendor with the state of Michigan and sign up to receive your payment via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). It is recommended that you begin this process immediately! Failure to do so or to provide any of the required documentation will result in the rejection of your application. Your application along with all required supporting documentation must be postmarked on or before October 1, 2012. **Applications postmarked after October 1, 2012 will NOT be accepted.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jeanette Towsley at (517) 241-2978 or via email at towsleyj@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin R. Rosenbaum".

Robin R. Rosenbaum
Plant Industry Section Manager
(517) 335-6542