



**COST SHARE REIMBURSEMENTS ARE  
ARRIVING TO THOSE WHO APPLIED;  
DEADLINE FOR 07-08 IS MAY 1**

If you applied for and haven't yet received your cost-share reimbursement, you should be receiving it soon. Applications that have been received have been processed and checks were mailed beginning in mid-March. Applications will continue to be processed in as timely a fashion as possible after they are received. Mary receives and processes the application before sending them to our accounting department that issues the check. Remember, you need to have your new certificate and all of the fees need to be paid before you can apply for Cost Share.

Applications are being accepted for two Cost-Share years: the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 and for the October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 certification time frame.

Checks issued for the October 1, 2008 thru September 30, 2009 will state "Payment for CS", which means "Cost Share." No deadline for this application period has been set at this time. We will continue to take applications for these beyond September 30, 2009.

Cost-Share payments for the October

1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 certification will state "Payment for Cost-Share 07-08". **Cost-share applications for this period, the 2007-2008 federal fiscal year, will not be accepted if they are postmarked after May 1, 2009. If you still need to submit your application, please do so immediately. Remember it will allow you to receive 75% of your organic certification fees up to \$750.**

If you have questions regarding the Cost-Share program, contact Mary Nieland at 515-281-7656.

**Cost-Share Funding**  
Funding year 10/1/07-9/30/08  
Applications due 5/1/09  
Checks will state "Payment for Cost-Share 07-08"

Funding year 10/1/08-9/30/09  
Deadline not yet set  
Checks will state "Payment for CS"

April 1, 2009

Issue 10

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- \* Cost Share Available
- \* Who You Gonna Call?
- \* Farm Safety

**DATES TO**

**REMEMBER!**

- \* Cost-share applications for 07-08 postmarked by 5/1/09
- \* May 31 Deadline for Crop Applications

## CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service recently released information pertaining to the 2007 Census of Agriculture. More than 85% of the 3.2 million people polled responded to the request for information. Some of the highlights of this latest census include:

- ◆ An increase of 4% in the number of farms and ranches
- ◆ Iowa ranks 3rd in the United States in both the number of farms and the value of production
- ◆ Diversity has increased, with more women and minority operators
- ◆ More operators are working off the farm.

The latest census figures show a continuation in the trend towards more small and very large farms and fewer mid-sized operations.

The survey reflected the number of farms in organic production to be 20,437. The survey reflects

growth in the organic farming section in the Midwest. Iowa continues to rank high nationally in terms of the number of certified-organic farms and the number of acres under organic management.

More detailed information pertaining to the organic industry will be made available through the organic production survey. Surveys will be sent in May 2009. If you receive a survey please complete it, as it is critical to the continued growth of the industry that this information be made available to the agricultural community and policy makers. The organic production survey will be completed in the spring of 2009 and results will be accessible in late 2009.

You can view more information relating to the census by going to [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).



2007 CENSUS of  
AGRICULTURE

## WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF MAIL!

We were deluged with organic applications that arrived during the March 16 early deadline. We were swamped with 72 applications in one day, and altogether now have over 165 producer applications we are working on. Please be patient as we process each one. Thanks to many of you who addressed your envelopes properly to the Organic Program at IDALS so they were sent to us directly.

**Remember all crop applications that have not been submitted must be post-marked by May 31, 2009 to be accepted.**



## HAVE YOU DONE THIS?

In the haste to get your application submitted, we want to provide you with the most common oversights to avoid:

- Sign page 2 of your cost-share application (Substitute W9/Vendor Update Form)
- Send in seed information if you didn't submit it with your application.
- Have any new inputs reviewed before you use them
- When submitting Field History forms, be sure to fill in the remainder of the 2008 column as well as telling us your 2009 plans
- Review your corrective actions (CIPs) if applicable, and address each of them.

## WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Ideally, we would like to have the opportunity to get to meet each of our valued customers. However, due to time and budget constraints, that is not a feasible option. We know your time is valuable and thought it might be helpful to offer you a short description of the job responsibilities of the organic staff. While each person has assigned tasks, we are familiar with each other's duties and each of us are happy to offer assistance.



Maury Wills, Bureau Chief  
515-281-5783

Maury is the program administrator of the organic bureau. He oversees the program and the staff.



Geraldine Fridlington  
Organic Document Specialist  
515-242-6343

Geraldine works primarily with livestock producers and processors. May field questions regarding inputs of these two groups.



Mary Nieland, Intake Specialist  
515-281-7656

Mary's primary responsibilities include reviewing organic applications. She also receives and opens all mail for the bureau and processes the Cost-Share applications.



Matt Miller, Organic Inspector  
515-306-1332

Matt is the organic inspector completing inspections for the majority of our live-stock & crop farms as well as processing facilities.



Emily Wadle, Marketing Specialist  
515-725-2078

Emily processes transaction certificates (TCs) and works on pre- and post-inspection reviews. She has had inspector training, and performs other duties outside of Organics.



Andrea McKern  
Organic Materials Specialist  
515-281-4128

Andrea's work focuses on reviewing inputs for producers.



Steve Pedersen  
Part-time Organic Inspector  
515-281-7608

Steve works part-time in our bureau. He assists in performing some of the field inspections and sending application materials.



Tammy Stotts  
Marketing Program Coordinator  
515-281-7657

Tammy writes the Organic News newsletter and assists in database work.

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE THE 2009 IOWA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS AND MARKETERS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW SUCH A SUCCESS.



More than 362 people were registered for one or more days of the three-day conference. Surveys showed a positive experience for attendees. The speakers presented a wealth of new information over the duration of the conference, covering topics such as safe food handling, infor-



mation on high tunnels, and scales at Farmers Markets. Highlights included visits from Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Leonard Boswell.

Thank you for your attendance at this event.

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## ORGANIC BUY/SELL SPOT

**Wanted**

No listings

**For Sale**

No listings

Send us your e-mail request  
 and we will post the informa-

tion here. The role of IDALS  
 will be to forward your e-mail  
 information to interested par-  
 ties, so please include all  
 contact information in your  
 e-mail. It's free; and you  
 have an interested audience.  
 You may contact Tammy  
 Stotts by e-mail at  
[tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov)

BE SAFE THIS SPRING, YOUR BIGGEST  
ASSET IS YOU!

Agriculture is a unique industry  
 in that so many of its workers  
 live, work and enjoy recrea-  
 tional activities at the worksite.  
 This often exposes them to  
 diverse hazards associated  
 with machinery, chemicals and  
 livestock. While the death rate  
 has declined over the last four  
 years, agriculture remains one  
 of the most deadly occupa-  
 tions.

Part of the danger in agricul-  
 ture is the high number of po-  
 tential threats. These threats  
 involve gasses, chemicals,  
 farm equipment, sun and heat  
 exposure, and grain storage  
 structures, just to name a few.

As this planting season gets  
 underway, please be aware of  
 the risks and follow these sim-  
 ple precautions:

- Develop a safety and health plan tailored to your operations, family and employees. Such plans include a hazardous communications program for family and employees, a lock-out tag-out program for equipment, a fire protection plan, chemical storage plan, farm safety rules and regulations, an emergency field com-

munications plan, and a plan in  
 the event a serious farm injury  
 or death occurs. All plans  
 should be committed to writing  
 and reviewed annually.

- Train your help, inform them of your written plans and rules, enforce farm safety rules and see that personal protective equipment is cared for and worn.
- Carry out regular safety inspections of equipment and facilities. Make necessary repairs and keep guards and shielding on.
- Buy quality products, then use them and care for them as directed in product manuals, labels or as instructed by product suppliers.
- Keep children off and away from machinery.

Take care of your health and respect the limitations of mind and body.

Keep informed about safety, health and environmental issues. Attend local events about them.

(Safety tips provided by National Safety Council.)