



GCIA Organic E-News

May 2020



On May 6, 2020 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service [announced](#) the availability of \$3 million in competitive grant funding under the 2018 Farm Bill's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. The newly established Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program supports the development of urban agriculture and innovative production activities by funding Planning Projects and Implementation Projects led by nonprofit organizations, local or Tribal governments, and schools that serve any of the grades K-12 in areas of the United States. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) is posted on [Grants.gov](#). Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 06, 2020.

There is approximately \$1 million available for Planning Projects and \$2 million for Implementation Projects. This is the first grant cycle for UAIP. The purpose of Planning Projects is to support the development of projects that will either initiate or build upon or expand the efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. The purpose of Implementation Projects is to accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor, and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers or gardeners.

A webinar will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time to provide an overview of the UAIP program purpose, project types, eligibility, and basic requirements for the submission of an application. To register for the UAIP webinar, visit the [registration webpage](#).

For additional information visit www.farmers.gov/urban.

Scheduling of Organic Inspections & COVID-19

We are continuing to schedule and conduct onsite inspections as normal. However, we understand that some of our clients may have policies or directives in place which do not allow for outside visitors, etc. We will address such circumstances as they arise and will do our best to cooperate with our clients accordingly. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact the GCIA office or your inspector.

Annual Renewal Date

Organic renewal applications and fees are due in the GCIA office on the anniversary date of the issuance of the initial Organic Certificate. In addition to the Organic System Plan and supporting documentation, you are required to submit payment of your annual fees on your renewal date. A fee estimate letter will be provided to you 30 days in advance of your annual renewal deadline. Failure to submit all relevant documentation AND fees will result in a noncompliance.

Organic E-News

To view past editions of Organic E-News, you will find them archived [HERE](#). If you have suggestions or comments regarding E-News, please let us know. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact our organic staff at the office (706-542-2351) or via email:

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Please be sure to visit the [GCIA Organic Program website](#) for additional resources.