

Appropriations Requests

Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

OFA requests \$29 million for the National Organic Program in FY2025 to respond to the explosive growth in organic sales. There is a need for enhanced enforcement and funding so the agency charged with overseeing the sector to keep pace with that growth. Additionally we request report language continuing to urge NOP to increase enforcement of soil health requirements, critical to organic's role in addressing climate change. The NOP was funded at \$18 million for FY21, \$20 million for FY22, and \$22 million for FY23. OFA requested \$26.4 million for FY24.

ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INITIATIVES (ODI)

As the organic industry continues to expand, the absence of comprehensive organic data remains a significant challenge. Therefore, for Fiscal Year 2025, **OFA is seeking \$1 million for the Organic Data Initiative.** This funding will support the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the Economic Research Service (ERS) in their efforts to enhance organic data collection initiatives.

ORGANIC TRANSITIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM (ORG)

OFA is seeking \$15 million for FY2025, primarily dedicated to climate change research pertinent to organic agriculture. Research for organic agriculture plays a pivotal role in addressing numerous production challenges encountered in both U.S. organic and conventional farming, including tillage strategies and alternative pest management practices. The Organic Transitions Program, which concentrates on topics of significance to all farmers, received funding of \$7 million for FY2021 and \$7.5 million for both FY22 and FY23.

SARE (SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

The SARE program supports on-farm research aimed at developing sustainable agricultural farming systems, encompassing organic systems among others. In FY2023, SARE received \$50 million in funding. **OFA is now advocating for an increased budget of \$60 million for SARE FY2025**, reflecting the importance of bolstering support for sustainable agriculture research and development initiatives.

ORGANIC WITHIN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

Organic farmers nationwide face a dearth of research addressing fundamental agronomic challenges. Notably, funding for organic research within the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has dwindled from over \$15 million in FY07 to merely \$12 million in FY20. This allocation represents less than 1 percent of the ARS research budget, despite organic agriculture commanding a market share of 6 percent. Rectifying this disparity, allocating 6 percent of the total ARS research budget to organic initiatives would amount to over \$120 million. To initiate steps toward addressing this imbalance, **OFA is advocating for a budget allocation of \$35 million specifically designated for ARS organic research in FY25.**