OFA FACTSHEET

Appropriations Requests

Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP) -$25 MILLION

There is a need for enhanced enforcement and funding so the agency charged with overseeing the sector can keep pace with that growth. The NOP has been level funded at $22.8 million for four years (FY23 through FY26). 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, and urging NOP to increase residue testing of imported organic feedstuffs to address the documented fraud in organic feedstuff imports.

ORGANIC TRANSITIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM (ORG) - $15 MILLION

Research for organic agriculture plays a key role in addressing production challenges encountered in both U.S. organic and conventional farming, including tillage strategies and alternative pest management practices. The Organic Transitions Program concentrates on topics of significance to all farmers. The program has been level funded at $7.5 million for four years (FY23 through FY26). Increased funding is needed to help domestic organic production keep pace with growth in organic demand and related research challenges.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM (OCCSP) - $11 MILLION

The National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) provides a 75 percent reimbursement to help defray the cost of annual certification for organic operations. The OBBBA included $8 million annually for the NOCCSP for each of Fiscal Years 2025 through 2031. OFA is advocating for additional NOCCSP funding in the Farm Bill 2.0 legislation, to ensure adequate funding to keep pace with the number of organic operations eligible for the program. However, given the uncertainty about Farm Bill action in 2026, we are requesting that $3 million in additional funding be made available for the program in the FY27 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

DOMESTIC ORGANIC INVESTMENT ACT (DOIA) - $5 MILLION

The Domestic Organic Investment Act is designed to address supply chain gaps in the organic sector, to help the sector meet growing consumer demand for organic products and ensure that this demand is met with domestically produced products, not imported products. DOIA would increase the capacity of the domestic organic product supply chain for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors of certified organic products, through USDA financial assistance for activities such as the modernization of manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems.

ORGANIC FARMERS ASSOCIATION

ORGANIC DATA INITIATIVE (ODI) (AMS, NASS, AND ERS) - $1 MILLION

As the organic industry continues to expand, the absence of comprehensive organic data remains a significant challenge. Organic data collection and analysis at USDA have made significant strides in recent years but remain in their infancy.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION TRADE AND TRACKING PROGRAM (OCTT) - $1 MILLION

Import fraud is one of the significant challenges facing the U.S. organic sector. USDA has new enforcement tools and responsibilities that are helping address the challenge, as a result of the important Strengthening Organic Enforcement rule. USDA needs additional resources to fully implement and update a state-of-the-art organic trade and tracking system to ensure that fraudulent imports are not allowed to enter the U.S. market and undermine U.S. organic producers.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (SARE) - $60 MILLION

The SARE program funds on-farm research into sustainable farming systems, including organic systems. SARE received $48 million for FY26.

DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION (DBI) INITIATIVES - $36 MILLION

The Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products. DBI Initiatives provide direct technical assistance and subawards to dairy businesses, including niche dairy products, such as specialty cheese, or dairy products derived from the milk of a dairy animal, including cow, sheep, and goat milk. The DBIA operates through regional Dairy Business Innovation Centers (DBICs), each of which focus on dairy challenges and opportunities within that region. The Northeast DBIC, for example, has been instrumental in helping to address the economic harms facing organic dairy farmers in several Northeastern states as are result of lost markets. The FY26 Appropriations “Minibus” bill cut funding for DBIA to $11.25 million, a significant reduction from the FY23 level of $25 million.

ORGANIC DAIRY DATA COLLECTION REGARDING PAY PRICES, AND PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND COSTS/NASS, AMS, AND ERS - REPORT LANGUAGE REQUESTED

Organic dairy farmers around the nation are facing an economic crisis caused by weather-related disasters, market consolidation, and skyrocketing energy and feed costs brought on by unstable global markets and inflation. One of the challenges in addressing this problem is the lack of segregated organic dairy data and analysis at USDA. OFA is requesting that report language be included in the AMS, NASS, and ERS sections of the FY27 Agriculture Appropriations bill regarding the need for improved data collection for organic dairy, including cost-of-production data for organic milk, feedstuff prices, and other production-related costs; the establishment of an “Organic All Milk Price Survey” to collect and report data about organic milk prices; and publication of periodic reports regarding organic mailbox milk prices.

FUNDING FOR REGIONALLY ADAPTED, PUBLIC CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS - AFRI REPORT LANGUAGE

Farmers need access to seeds and animal breeds adapted to their farming systems, soils and climates. USDA responded to past requests by the Senate Appropriations Committee for a separate AFRI funding stream for regionally adapted cultivars, by establishing an AFRI “cultivar development” program priority area. OFA requests that FY27 appropriations bill report language call for increased funding for this AFRI priority area.

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