ORGANIC FARMERS ASSOCIATION



Organic Farmers Association 2026 Impact Report

Farmer-led. National impact.

202-643-5363 | organicfarmersassociation.org

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

Ten years ago, organic farmers across the country organized to create the Organic Farmers Association as a leading voice for U.S. organic farmers.

Our vision is to make organic principles and practices the baseline for all agriculture in the United States, led by farmers.

We're excited to share this report, which highlights the important work OFA accomplished in 2026 toward realizing our vision. With four years of support from donors, sponsors, members, grantmakers, and the USDA Organic Transition Initiative, OFA has responded to farmers' needs and built the internal infrastructure necessary to help organic farmers succeed and chart the future of our organic movement.

This year we:

- connected farmers across the country with legislators,
- identified key policy changes farmers need most,
- strengthened the resources of the Organic Career Network and trained future organic service providers so organic farmers will continue to have the right support, and
- connected our organization members to collectively focus on changing our food system to achieve our vision.

As we move into 2027, we want to keep the momentum building as grant opportunities become increasingly competitive. We believe in our team, our organic farmer leaders, and your support!



Kate Mendenhall
Organic Farmer
Executive Director

OUR MISSION & VISION

Mission: To provide a strong and unified national voice for domestic certified organic producers so that organic agriculture will become the basis of a viable United States food and agricultural policy and production system to support a healthier planet for the benefit of all life.

Vision: Organic agriculture will become the basis of a viable United States food and agricultural policy and production system.

Our Guiding Principles

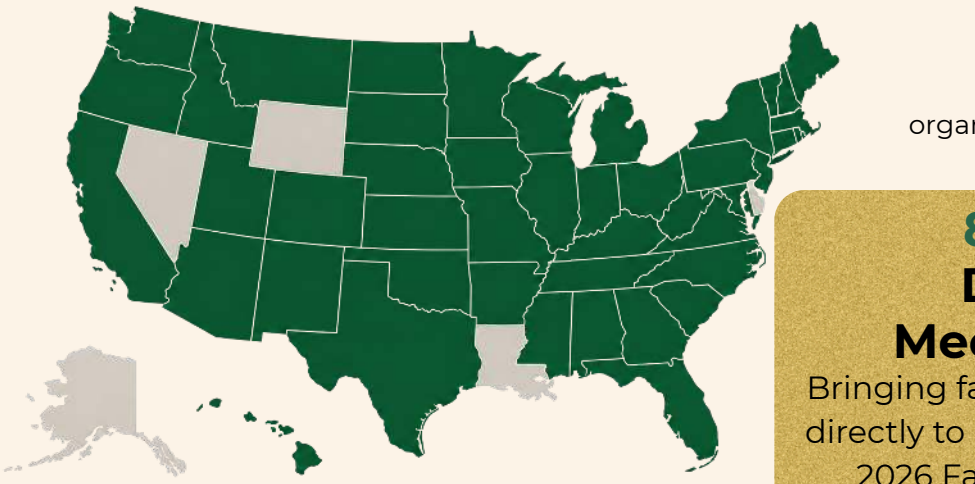
- Leadership
- Independence
- Working Together
- Diversity
- Membership
- Farmer Engagement
- Openness & Respect
- Collaboration
- Differing Opinions
- Unified Voice
- Working for Change
- Race & Gender Matter

2026 AT A GLANCE

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A year of farmer support, connection, and action.

Current Members
Located in 45 States



Not a Member? Sign Up Here:

organicfarmersassociation.org/member-benefits

80+
D.C. Meetings
Bringing farmer priorities directly to D.C. during the 2026 Farmer Fly-In.

145+
Farmer HelpLine Calls Answered
Direct support for farmers navigating challenges.

3,830
Action Alert Letters Sent
Mobilizing farmers & supporters to speak up on issues affecting organic agriculture.

60
Paid Organic Career Network Internships
Creating pathways into organic agriculture.

101
Story Lab Trainings Completed
Workshops helping farmers build the skills to share their organic farm stories.

42 Organic Voice Articles
Educational articles written by and for organic farmers and supporters throughout 5 magazine issues.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

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Farmer priorities guide our policy work.

Farmers are where OFA begins its policy work. We identify the problems facing organic farms and create workable policy solutions based on farmers' experiences through our yearly policy survey, farmer workgroups, direct conversations, and farmer leadership.

1) Farmers identify the issues

Annual surveys, conversations, and direct farmer experiences show OFA where support and policy change are needed.

151 Policy Survey Participants

13 New Policies Introduced

2) Farmers discuss solutions

OFA workgroups bring farmers together to discuss challenges, compare experiences, and develop practical policy recommendations.

7 Farmers Testified for the NOSB

3) OFA advances those priorities

OFA turns farmer-informed solutions into policy recommendations, advocacy, testimony, and direct engagement with policymakers.

62 Farmers Joined Workgroups



Lily Hawkins
Policy Director

View OFA's Policy Priorities:

organicfarmersassociation.org/policy-position

2026 FARMER FLY-IN

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Bringing organic farmers directly to policymakers.

Each year, OFA brings organic farmers and organization leaders to Washington, D.C. to meet directly with policymakers and share how federal decisions affect their farms and livelihoods. The Farmer Fly-In gives farmers the opportunity to bring firsthand experience into policy conversations and make sure organic agriculture is represented by the people doing the work every day.





31 Farmers

19 States

80+ Meetings



“OFA does a wonderful job of being a voice for farmers in spaces where farmers typically are not in.”

“I am here to be a voice for my farm and other farmers in Georgia to improve USDA programs to best support all American farmers.”

— D’Anthony Price, Georgia (2026 Farmer Fly-In)

FARMER-LED POLICY STARTS WITH FARMERS HAVING A SEAT AT THE TABLE.

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The Organic Farmer Fly-In gives policymakers the opportunity to hear directly from organic farmers about how federal programs, regulations, and legislation affect their operations. OFA helps farmers prepare and connect with leaders, but farmers bring their own experiences and priorities into the room.



"They can hear from us how those rules and regulations that they enact impact the people actually at the farm level."

— Bob Keatley, Arrowdale Farm, Wisconsin



"A lot of it was just education, explaining to the new folks that are staffing the offices on the House of Representatives and Senate, explaining what organic is, how it works, why the USDA is involved, what is important to organic farmers."

— Pryor Garnett, Garnetts Red Prairie Farm, Oregon

FARMER VOICES LED TO ACTION

As a direct result of this year's meetings:

1. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) co-sponsored the Organic Imports Verification Act of 2025 (OIVA) Senate bill.
2. Representative Shontel Brown (D-OH) agreed to champion the OIVA bill in the House.
3. Senator Markwayne Mullin's (R-OK) office accepted an invitation to visit an organic farm in Oklahoma.

FARMER SERVICES

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Farming is hard. You don't have to figure it out alone.

OFA's Farmer Services team supports farmers exploring organic, transitioning to organic production, and certified organic farmers. We help farmers talk through questions, troubleshoot challenges, understand their options, and connect with trusted resources, experts, and other farmers.

Farmer HelpLine

Free, confidential support when farmers have questions or challenges.

Organic Webinars

Practical learning on topics affecting organic farmers.

Organic Factsheets

Clear, useful information farmers can reference and share.

Farmer Workgroups

Farmer-directed spaces to discuss challenges & identify policy solutions.

"We do a lot of marketing with Whole Foods Market, and they introduced a third-party invoicing program that was going to cost our farm about another $2,200 a year and some other farmers $7,000 or $8,000.

We reached out to our local stores and regional representatives, but when we weren't able to resolve it through those channels, I reached out to Organic Farmers Association Farmer Services.

OFA was able to get several farmers into a meeting with Whole Foods executives. We explained why the program wasn't working for farmers, and after some back and forth, they agreed to put a moratorium on it and look at how it could work better.



It took the skills of Organic Farmers Association Farmer Services to figure out the pathway to make contact, explain why it was such a problem, and seek resolution. There was another farmer in that group who was on the edge of losing his business. That's a case where OFA really saved this organic farmer's business and impacted so many others of us who market through Whole Foods."

— Seth Kroeck, Crystal Spring Farm, Maine

2027 Farmer Workgroups

- Crop Insurance
- USDA Programs
- Grain Grower
- Mixed Vegetable Grower
- Public Procurement
- NOSB (Comment Preparation)

Need Help? Contact Us:

organicfarmersassociation.org/resources



Julia Barton
Farmer Services Director



Harriet Behar
Farmer Services Consultant

FARMER STORYTELLING 8

Giving farmers tools to share what they do & why it matters.

OFA developed the Organic Farmer Storytelling Project to help farmers share their experiences authentically and communicate the value of organic. Through Story Lab workshops, resources, and personalized support, farmers gain the tools to build trust, reach customers and buyers, and explain the often unseen work behind organic production.







Workshops & Webinars

Guides & Resources

Interactive Knowledge Base

1-on-1 Support

7
Storytelling Resources Created
Free tools and templates for farmers.

101
Story Lab Trainings Completed
Helping farmers share their stories.

3
Partner Collaborations
2 guest webinars and 1 in-person conference.

3.8K+
Storytelling Page Visits
People exploring OFA's growing resources.



"Attending Story Lab helped me realize that what I'm doing is special and that I do have a unique story. I realized that my story does matter, that it helps people connect with what I'm trying to do and why, and it helped me grow my confidence in telling it."

— Rhianna Simes, Verdant Phoenix Farm, Oregon

Explore the Resources:

organicfarmersassociation.org/organic-farmer-storytelling-project



Questions? Contact:

Madison Letizia
Communications Manager

ORGANIC CAREER NETWORK

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Connecting the next generation to careers in organic agriculture.

The Organic Career Network is a national initiative working to grow the next generation of leaders in organic agriculture. Through paid opportunities and career connections, OCN connects students and emerging professionals with meaningful pathways across the organic sector.

60 Funded Internship Placements

47 Students Supported

26 Host Organizations

400+ Applications Received

13 Internship Extensions Awarded

Alice Pekarsky's OCN Journey



OCN Internship

Alice joined Florida Organic Growers (FOG) through an Organic Career Network internship.

Career Progression

FOG helped Alice shadow an inspection with Quality Certification Services and connect with their inspector apprenticeship program.

Currently

After completing the apprenticeship, Alice now works as an Organic Inspector.

ORGANIC JOB FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

ORGANIC CAREER NETWORK

5TH NOV. 2026

OCN's virtual job fair connected job seekers & employers across the organic sector and created more opportunities for people to build careers in organic agriculture.

Questions? Contact:
Ryann Monteiro
OCN Manager



Learn More About OCN

Organiccareernetwork.org

SPONSORS

Appreciating the organizations that help make OFA's work possible.



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The Weston A. Price Foundation











Quick Organics

Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance





National Farmers



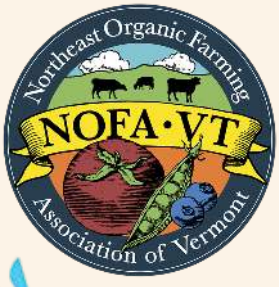
























LOOKING AHEAD

Continuing to support organic farmers across the country.

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In 2027, OFA will continue growing its programs, farmer services, workforce development, education, and advocacy. The focus will remain on prioritizing organic farmers and providing the resources and connections they need to succeed. Watch for more information on this work in 2027 and get involved!

Farmer Workgroups

New online monthly groups starting Fall 2026

2027 Farmer Fly-In

March 2, 2027
Washington, D.C.

State Collaboration

OFA is working with partners in states across the country to move forward legislation that supports agroecological farming and stronger organic markets.

WAYS TO STAND WITH ORGANIC FARMERS:

Join or Renew Your Membership

Support farmers and stay connected to OFA's work.

JOIN / RENEW

Donate

Help OFA continue to provide advocacy, education, and farmer support.

DONATE

Become a Sponsor

Partner with OFA to support organic farmers.

SPONSOR



Want to get involved? Reach Out:

Amber Lippon
Membership & Outreach Coordinator

organicfarmersassociation.org