

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman, Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member, Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Committee:

We, the undersigned, appreciate the work that you have done on the Senate Agriculture Committee to promote and strengthen publicly funded agricultural research across our great nation, which is an important underpinning of the broader farm economy. However, as you are taking care of all farmers in this Farm Bill, we want to ensure that the research needs of organic farmers, who must produce under the standards of the USDA National Organic Program, are not overlooked.

Organic agriculture continues to be a bright spot in American agriculture, strengthening rural and urban economies and building ecological resilience through a focus on soil health. In 2025, organic sales reached [\\$76.6 billion](#), a 46% increase from [\\$52.5 billion in 2018](#). By 2030, sales are [projected](#) to grow by nearly 44%, eclipsing the \$100 billion mark for the first time in market history.

Despite explosive market growth, domestic production is struggling to keep up with demand. Organic agriculture is primarily practice-based and varies from region to region. Lack of investment in organic research causes long-standing barriers to organic production and transition in many regions left unstudied. Year over year, these barriers to U.S. farmers help explain why the number of certified organic farms is only [marginally increasing](#), while organic acreage is actually [declining](#). Without research programs available to lower the barriers for U.S. farms, the U.S. organic market will become increasingly reliant on imports as is currently being experienced in organic [beef, corn, and soybeans](#).

As the Senate negotiates next steps on the Farm Bill, we strongly urge the Committee to prioritize organic agriculture research to help address ongoing production challenges facing organic growers. Specifically, we request that the Committee maintain and strengthen support for USDA's two dedicated organic research programs, the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) and the Organic Transitions Program (ORG), which remain critical to advancing innovation, productivity, and long-term competitiveness within the organic sector.

Supporting organic agriculture research programs like OREI and ORG not only helps organic farmers but also benefits non-organic farmers who adopt organic practices. For example, integrated pest management (IPM) is increasingly popular among conventional farmers as they seek to counter rising input costs and environmental damage. Organic agriculture places an outsized emphasis on IPM due to the prohibition of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides and the regulated use of approved chemicals. Consequently, conventional farmers can leverage a myriad of organic IPM research, like [strategically planting field border habitats for row crops](#) or [combating pest damage to strawberries through developing trap crops](#), to identify best practices. Another example is disease management. Conventional farmers benefit from organic disease management research, such as organic research [to prevent fire blight disease in apples](#) or

research that finds [ways](#) to treat [Mastitis](#), the most common disease in dairy cows and a major cause of economic loss. The scale of farmers using approved organic fertilizers and organic practices, such as cover cropping, is also immense. Farms in [Arkansas](#) and [Minnesota](#) used [approved organic fertilizers](#) on over 90,000 acres and 135,000 acres, respectively, in 2022. The percentage of corn, soybean, and cotton acreage that is cover-cropped (a common organic practice) is in the [double digits](#) nationwide. It is also extremely popular among specialty crop producers. [Organic fertilizers](#) and [cover cropping](#) have been historic focuses in OREI and ORG projects over time.

We ask that the Committee will support organic agriculture research in the Farm Bill to help ensure that the organic innovation landscape keeps pace with the challenges that both organic and non-organic producers currently face.

Undersigned:

International Fresh Produce Association

National Organic Coalition

Organic Farmers Association

Organic Farming Research Foundation

Organic Trade Association

Research and Science-based Organizations:

agInnovation South

American Dairy Science Association

American Society for Horticultural Science

American Society of Agronomy

Rodale Institute

Crop Science Society of America

Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

North Central Weed Science Society

Organic Seed Alliance

Society of Nematologists

Soil Science Society of America

Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems

The Organic Center

Weed Science Society of America

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Brands

Bejo Seeds, Inc.

Dr. Bronner's

Driscoll's Inc.

Kamut International Ltd

Mondelez Global LLC

Natural Grocers

Nature's Path Foods, Inc.

Organic Valley | CROPP Cooperative

Organically Grown Company

Patagonia Provisions

Stonyfield Organic

Taylor Farms

United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI)

Farm Groups

American Grassfed Association

California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Iowa Organic Association

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance

MOSA Certified Organic

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

National Young Farmers Coalition

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. of NY

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey NOFA NJ

Northeast Organic Farming Association of NH

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA)

Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Organic Association of Kentucky

Oregon Tilth

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

Texas International Produce Association

Texas Vegetable Association

Virginia Assoc. for Biological Farming

Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA)

April Joy Farm

Derrydale Farm

E. V. Peeks Farm

Ela Family Farms

Fox Haven Farm

Garden Variety Harvests

Healthy Way market

Hirzel Farms, Inc.

Kanalani Ohana Farm

Knuckleball Agricultural Services

Lori's Natural Foods Center

Mint Creek Inc

Northstar Restaurant Group

OFARM

Ohio Earth Food

Ohio Till Farmstead

Pinestate Caregiving Llc

Saunders Farm

Sierra Harvest

The Food Co-op, Port Townsend

True Organic Products, Inc.

Woodlyn Acres Farm LLC

NGO's

Beyond Pesticides

California Climate and Agriculture Network

Equal Exchange

Farm Aid

Friends of the Earth

Green America

Invasive Species Corporation

National Wildlife Federation

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project

Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network

Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT PBC