

Agricultural Marketing Service

Organic Certifier Survey Guide

Beginning in 2017, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program (AMS NOP) has taken responsibility for certified organic acreage and livestock reporting from the Organic *INTEGRITY* Database. This transition will reduce reporting burden for Accredited Certifying Agents (Certifiers). Information about prior reports by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for years 2014 and 2015, and USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) in prior years, can be found at:

- https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Organic_Production/Organic_Certifiers/2016/USDA_Accredited_Certifying_Agent_Certified_Organic_Data_2014_2015.pdf
- <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/organic-production>

The NASS 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Survey includes data on certified crops and livestock operations. It does not include data from organic handlers, processors, wild crops operations, or public grazing land (AUM). Information published includes the number of certified organic operations along with the number of acres certified for various crops, and the reported livestock and poultry certified as organic.

Data Comparability

NASS and AMS NOP Data – The NASS 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Survey was voluntary and a response was not obtained from 100% of the certifiers. Some information received from certifiers was not complete. Livestock and poultry data was often less complete, partially due to the nature of production practices. AMS NOP data is obtained via mandatory and regulated reporting encompassing all certified farms and businesses. Data users should account for this difference when reviewing NASS and AMS NOP data.

Organic Certifier Data and NASS Organic Producer Survey/Census Data - The 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Survey data is a tabulation of USDA-accredited organic certifiers' acreage and livestock data received. The data underwent editing, summarization, and disclosure programming prior to publishing. The 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2015 organic producer surveys as well as the 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture collected and published data on organic operations which had production in the reference year. The data from these programs were adjusted for non-response, misclassification, and coverage. Therefore, the certifier survey data and producer survey/census data are not comparable and data users should account for these differences when reviewing the data. Data users should allow for differences when comparing the data between datasets including reference periods, organic definitions, and differing survey methodologies

Table 1. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Crops, United States

NASS	INTEGRITY
Operations ¹	<i>Scope:</i> Crops
Operations (non-response count) ²	N/A
Acres reported in the operation ³	<i>Operation Level:</i> Total Certified Acres, Crops Scope
Pasture and rangeland	<i>Item Name</i> - Pasture
Barley	<i>Item Name</i> - Barley
Corn for grain or silage	<i>Item Name</i> - Corn
Oats	<i>Item Name</i> - Oats
Soybeans	<i>Item Name</i> - Soybeans
Wheat, all	<i>Item Name</i> - Wheat
Other field crops	<i>Category Name</i> - Field/Forageable <i>Item Name</i> - Abaca, Agave, Aloe Vera, Amaranth, Buckwheat, Canary Seed, Canola, Carob, Cacao, Coffee, Cotton, Field Crop, Figue, Flax, Fonio, Hemp, Henna, Job's Tears, Jute, Kapok, Kenaf, Kidney Beans, Lablab, Lima Beans, Linseed, Maple Syrup, Millet, Mustard, Navy Beans, Palm, Pearl Millet, Pinto Beans, Popcorn, Proso Millet, Quinoa, Ramie, Rice, Rye, Safflower, Sesame, Silage, Sorghum, Spelt, Sugercane, Sugarbeets, Sunflowers, Tea, Teff, Tobacco, Wheatgrass, Yerba Mate
Forage crops ⁴	<i>Category Name</i> - Field/Forageable <i>Item Name</i> - Alfalfa, Balage, Brome Grass, Canary Grass, Clover, Grass, Hay, Lespedeza, Ryegrass, Sorghum Sudan Grass, Sudan Grass, Timothy Grass, Trefoil, Triticale, Vetch
Tomatoes	<i>Item Name</i> - Tomatoes
Other vegetables	<i>Category Name</i> - Flower Vegetables, Fruit Vegetables (minus Tomatoes), Leaf Vegetables, Sea Vegetables, Seed/Pod Vegetables, Stem Vegetables, Tuber/Root Vegetables; <i>Item Name</i> - Alaria, Algae, Alliums, Arracacia, Arrowroot, Artichokes, Arugula, Asparagus, Baby Greens, Bamboo Shoots, Bean Sprouts, Beans, Beets, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Bulbs, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Capers, Carrots, Cassava, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Celtuce, Chard, Chaya, Chayotes, Chickpeas, Chicory, Collards, Corn, Cucumbers, Cucurbits, Daikon, Edamame, Eggplants, Endive, Fennel, Fiddlehead, Galangal, Garlic, Gourds, Grape Leaves, Green Beans, Hearts of Palms, Hops, Horseradish, Jicama, Kale, Kidney Beans, Kohlrabi, Kuzu, Leaf Vegetables, Leafy Greens, Leeks, Lentils, Lettuce, Lima Beans, Lotus Root, Maca, Melons, Mizuna, Nopal, Okra, Onions, Pak Choi, Parsnips, Peas, Peppers, Pinto Beans, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radicchio, Radishes, Rapini, Rhubarb, Rutabaga, Salsify, Savory, Scallions, Sea Vegetables, Shallots, Skirret, Spinach, Sprouts, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Tamarillos, Taro, Tatsoi, Tomatillos, Tubers, Turnips, Wasabi, Watercress, Yams, Zucchini
Unclassified vegetables and horticulture	<i>Crops Scope</i> - Other (all unclassified Crops)
Grapes	<i>Item Name</i> - Grapes
Berries	<i>Category Name</i> - Fruit - Berries (minus Grapes); <i>Item Name</i> - Acai Berries, Aronia Berries, Bayberries, Bearberries, Berries, Bilberries, Blackberries, Blueberries, Boysenberries, Buffaloberries, Cane Berries, Capers, Cranberries, Currants, Elderberries, Goji Berries, Huckleberries, Lychee, Mulberries, Raspberries, Strawberries
Non-citrus fruit	<i>Category Name</i> - Fruit - Melons, Fruit - Pome, Fruit - Stone, Fruit - Tropical Fruits; <i>Item Name</i> - Abiu, Acerolas, Ackee, Aguaymanto, Aizen, Ambarella, Apples, Apricots, Apriums, Araza, Arhats, Atemoyas, Avocados, Babacos, Baels, Bananas, Breadfruits, Cantaloupes, Chayotes, Cherimoyas, Cherries, Coconuts, Dates, Dragonfruits, Durians, Feijoas, Figs, Honeydew Melons, Jackfruits, Kiwis, Longans, Mangos, Medlars, Melons, Naranjillas, Nectarines, Neems, Noni, Olives, Papayas, Passionfruits, Peaches, Pears, Pineapples, Plantains, Plumcots, Plums, Pomegranates, Prickly Pears, Quinces, Rambutans, Starfruits, Tropical Fruits, Watermelons

Citrus fruit	<i>Category Name</i> - Fruit - Citrus; <i>Item Name</i> - Calamondins, Citrons, Citrus, Clementines, Grapefruits, Guavas, Kumquats, Lemons, Limes, Loquats, Lucuma, Mandarins, Mangosteen, Oranges, Pomelos, Satsumas, Tangelos, Tangerines
Other fruit	<i>Crops Scope</i> - Other (all unclassified Crops)
Tree nuts	<i>Category Name</i> - Nuts (minus Peanuts); <i>Item Name</i> - Nuts (minus Peanuts), Almonds, Areca , Bambara Groundnut, Brazil Nut, Breadnut, Canarium Nut, Candlenuts, Cashew Nuts, Chestnuts, Chufa, Filberts, Gabon Nut, Hazelnut, Hickory, Jojoba, Karuka, Kola, Kurrajong, Macadamia, Mongongo Nut, Oak Nuts, Palm Nuts, Paradise, Pecans, Pine Nuts, Pistachios, Shea Butter Nut, Walnuts
Nursery and greenhouse	<i>Category Name</i> - Nursery/Starts/Flowers/Trees; <i>Item Name</i> - Greenhouse
Woodland and idle land	<i>Item Name</i> - Fallow, CRP, Trees, Wetlands
Unclassified land use	<i>Crops Scope</i> - Other (all unclassified Crops) <i>Item Name</i> - Homestead, Production Area

1/ United States operation count includes reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents and the operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database for the non-response certifiers.

2/ Non-response operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database at the U.S. level.

3/ Land use categories do not sum to total reported acres in the operation due to multiple cropping practices or multiple uses.

4/ Forage crops do not include corn or sorghum for silage.

Tables 2 & 3. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data: Land Use, by State

INTEGRITY		Crops Scope: Count of Certified Operations	Operation Level, Crops Scope: Total Certified Acres	Item Level: Item - Pasture	Table 1: Cells B9-B25 (Barley through Nursery and Greenhouse)	Item Level: Items - Fallow, CRP, Outdoor Access, Trees, Wetlands	Crops Scope: Other; Item Name - Homestead, Production Area
NASS	Geographic area	Operations	Total acres ¹	Pasture and rangeland (acres)	Sum of crops (acres)	Woodland and idle land (acres)	Unclassified (acres)
	United States ²						
	Alabama						
	Alaska						
	Arizona ³						
	Arkansas						
	California ³						
	Colorado						
	Connecticut						
	Delaware						
	Florida						
	Georgia						
	Hawaii						
	Idaho						
	Illinois						
	Indiana						
	Iowa						
	Kansas						
	Kentucky						
	Louisiana						
	Maine						
	Maryland						
	Massachusetts						
	Michigan						
	Minnesota						
	Mississippi						
	Missouri						
	Montana						
	Nebraska						
	Nevada						
	New Hampshire						
	New Jersey						
	New Mexico						
	New York						
	North Carolina						
	North Dakota						
	Ohio						
	Oklahoma						

Oregon						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas ³						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
Non-response ⁴						

1/ The four categories may not add to total acres since acres in sum of crops column includes double cropping or multi uses.

2/ United States operation count includes reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents and the operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database for the non-response certifiers.

3/ Non-response certifying agents certify operations in AZ, CA, and TX. Data may be incomplete in these states.

4/ Non-response certifier operation count from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY Database at the U.S. level

Table 4. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Livestock and Poultry, United States

United States	
NASS	INTEGRITY
Operations ¹	Scope: Livestock
Total livestock and poultry	Scope: Livestock
Cattle	Category Name - Cattle; Item Name - Calves, Dry Cows, Heifers, Beef Heifers, Milking Cows, Yearling, Beef Replacement Heifer, Dairy Replacement Heifer, Bulls, Beef Bulls, Dairy Bulls, Steers, Beef Steers, Dairy Steers, Beef Brood Cows
Hogs	Item Name - Hogs
Sheep	Category Name - Sheep; Item Name - Rams/Bucks, Ewes, Brood Ewes, Lambs, Ewe Lambs, Wool Sheep, Milking Sheep
Goats	Category Name - Goats; Item Name - Goats, Rams/Bucks, Brood Does, Milking Goats, Dairy Replacement Kids, Doe Kids
Other livestock	Category Name - Apiculture, Buffalo, Equine, Rabbits, Swine, Venison; Item Name - Bees, Rabbits, Horses, Antelope, Deer, Elk, Barrow, Boars, Gilts, Bred Gilts, Piglets, Sows, Brood Sows, Bison, Buffalo Brood Cows, Buffalo Bulls
Chickens	Item Name - Broilers, Capons, Chickens, Laying Hens, Pullets
Turkeys	Item Name - Turkeys
Other poultry	Category Name - Poultry; Item Name - Ducks, Laying Ducks, Geese

1/ United States operation count is a sum of reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents. Non-response operation count cannot be determined due to certification being based on acreage.

Table 5. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Livestock and Poultry, by State

INTEGRITY		Livestock Scope: Count of Certified Operations	Livestock Scope: Number of Livestock/Poultry
NASS	Geographic area	Operations	Total livestock (number)
	United States		
	Alabama		
	Alaska		
	Arizona		
	Arkansas		
	California		
	Colorado		
	Connecticut		
	Delaware		
	Florida		
	Georgia		
	Hawaii		
	Idaho		
	Illinois		
	Indiana		
	Iowa		
	Kansas		
	Kentucky		
	Louisiana		
	Maine		
	Maryland		
	Massachusetts		
	Michigan		
	Minnesota		
	Mississippi		
	Missouri		
	Montana		
	Nebraska		
	Nevada		
	New Hampshire		
	New Jersey		
	New Mexico		
	New York		
	North Carolina		
	North Dakota		
	Ohio		

Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		

1/ United States operation count is a sum of reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents.

Non-response operation count cannot be determined due to certification being based on acreage.