Increase from 2016

- 17% # farms
- 31% sales
- 9% Cert. land

Organic Farms, Acres, and Sales, 2008 to 2019

USDA NASS, 2019 Organic Survey (2017 Census of Agriculture)
Similar trends observed in Europe

Production and Processing Expansions Aid Organic Sector

- Registered Operators (Organic processors) - Europe
- Processed organic fruit and vegetables
- Wine, organic
- Processed organic meat and meat products

Data: EUROSTAT, Gro Intelligence

“Despite robust consumer demand, however, there is still limited research, education programs, and extension resources that support organic systems” (NSAC).

- Limited investment in R&D

Source: OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators (MSTI) Database, 28 February 2020 [http://oe.cd/msti](http://oe.cd/msti)
Strong investments in research and innovation is critical to the growth of the organic sector

Two USDA-NIFA programs have helped fill the gap by stimulating cutting-edge research to address critical challenges of the organic industry.

- The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)
- The Organic Transitions (ORG)

While the focus of this presentation is on these two programs, there are many other NIFA programs that fund organic agriculture projects.

- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRD)
- Hatch program
Many other USDA agencies make significant investments in organic agriculture either directly or through funding opportunities.

- Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
- Economic Research Service (ERS)
- Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
- National Agricultural Library (NAL)
- ...
Challenges of the Organic Industry

Issues span the entire supply chain from “farm to fork”

- Farm bill
- National surveys
- Listening sessions
- Meetings
- White paper
- Inputs

True partnership in issue identification
Action by the Industry

- Issue identification
- Priority setting
- Work with USDA
- Work with congress

Goal: Secure funding for Research, Education, and Extension
Funds Awarded (Million)

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative
Integrated Organic Programs
Integrated Organic and Water Quality Program

OREI funding through multiple Farm Bills
Action by NIFA

- **Industry priorities translated into Request For Applications (RFA)**
- **Rigorous panel review process**
- **Scientific merit used for award selection**
- **Post-award management**
Action by NIFA

- **NOSB priorities are our priorities**
- **They are all included in our RFAs**
  - Organic Transitions program
  - OREI program
- **Direct links are included in the RFAs**
- **They are used by applicants to establish project relevance**
ORG and OREI # of proposals by year

* OREI Not offered in 2013
Note: Resubmissions included in the count
ORG and OREI Success Rate

Success rate (24% AVG)

Outlier: only 4 proposals submitted
ORG & OREI # of proposals submitted by state 2001-2020
ORG & OREI # of proposals funded by state 2001-2020

*Continuations are counted as 1*
Good News!

- **Funding has improved for:**
  - Animal Systems Proposals
  - Small and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)
  - Southern Region

- **Success rate is up for**
  - Seeds and Breeds proposals

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**Success Rate**

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OREI budget increase is a big win for the industry

Great opportunity to stimulate research and innovation and to tackle big challenges
Future Perspective

01 Promote
  - Promote Research and Innovation

02 Explore
  - Explore New Extension Opportunities

03 Train
  - Train the next Generation of Organic Farmers and Leaders
Future Perspective

• Develop smart tools for use by farmers and processors
  • Seeds, Natural substances etc.

• Develop smart tools for enforcement agents to support “Organic Integrity”

• Better understand the human dimension of organic agriculture

• Make new knowledge available and accessible to farmers

• Etc.
NIFA ORGANIC PROGRAMS TEAM

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