



Acting Organic Policy Advisor Report

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USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program





- Organic Working Group
- Organic Champions Network
- NASS Survey
- Organic Research & Promotion Program
- Cost Share Programs



Organic Working Group



- **Organic Working Group (OWG)**
 - Supporting Organic Agriculture across all USDA agencies
 - OWG has been active since the 1990s
 - Approx. 30 members
 - Maintains the USDA organic portal:
www.usda.gov/organic



Organic Champions Network



- **Organic Champions Network**

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Field-based employees

- FSA organic site:

- www.fsa.usda.gov/organic

- NRCS organic site:

- www.nrcs.usda.gov/organic



National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Survey

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- **NASS Survey**

- 2014 & 2015 Organic Certifier Data
- Voluntary participation
- [www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide to NASS Surveys/Organic Production/index.php](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide%20to%20NASS%20Surveys/Organic%20Production/index.php)
- 2017 data from INTEGRITY



- **NASS Survey (cont.)**
 - 2015 Certified Organic Survey results
 - 2016 Certified Organic Survey coming soon



Organic Research & Promotion Program



- **Research & Promotion Programs (R&P)**
 - Industry funded
 - Authorized by Congress
 - USDA provides oversight



- **Proposed Organic Research, Promotion, and Information Order**
 - Currently 22 R&P programs
 - Authorization under the 2014 Farm Bill
 - USDA received proposal from the Organic Trade Association (OTA)

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- **Proposed Organic R&P Order (cont.)**
 - 1/10 of 1% of net organic sales
 - Importers and certified entities with gross organic revenue in excess of \$250,000 per year
 - Entities with less than \$250,000 per year would be exempt, but can voluntarily participate
 - 17 member board: 15 producers and handlers from the US, 1 importer, and 1 non-voting public member



Cost Share Programs



- **Cost Share Programs**
 - Farm Service Agency (FSA) responsible for the organic certification cost-share programs
 - Cost-share applications will be available at FSA county offices
 - Expansion of scopes to include State organic program fees and transitional certification

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Questions?

