USDA ORGANIC DATA UPDATE

National Organic Standards Board Meeting
April 24, 2019

Adam Cline
Head, Census Section
Census and Survey Division
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
TOPICS

• Surveys and Data Sources
• Data Variances
• Challenges and Next Steps
• 2017 Census of Agriculture Organic Results
– Census of Agriculture Special Studies
  • 2008
  • 2014
  • 2019

– RMA Funded Surveys
  • 2011
  • 2015
  • 2016
2019 ORGANIC SURVEY

– Special Study to the 2017 Census of Agriculture

– Federal Register posted on Feb 28; closes Apr 29

– Questionnaire changes

– Data on production quantity and value as well as production and marketing practices

– Data collection begins December 2019

– Results released October 2020
CERTIFIER SURVEYS

CERTIFIER ACREAGE AND LIVESTOCK DATA

- Agrisystems International (Private): 1995
- AMS NOP: 2017 - ongoing
CERTIFIER DATA

TRANSITION TO NOP

• Consultation with NASS, ERS, and other stakeholders

• Data from certifiers readily available for Organic Integrity Database

• Data reports began in 2017

• Proposed rule to make reporting mandatory
DATA VARIANCES

NUMBER OF OPERATIONS

– NASS Producer Surveys
  • Self reported
  • Certified crop and livestock farming operations with production

– AMS NOP; Organic Integrity Database
  • Data from mandatory and regulated reporting
  • All operations and businesses

– Methodology Differences
  • Method for counting a single entity with multiple operations/locations may vary among agencies
DATA VARIANCES

CERTIFIER ACREAGE AND LIVESTOCK DATA

– Certifier Surveys (NASS and ERS)
  • Long data collection timeframes
  • Resources to interact with certifiers
  • Resources to review and edit the reported data

– Organic Integrity Database (AMS NOP)
  • Limited resources for certifier interaction and data review
  • Must rely on assumption of accurate reporting of these fields
CHALLENGES

ORGANIC INTEGRITY DATABASE
ACREAGE AND LIVESTOCK DATA

– Reporting is voluntary

– Data issues such as duplication and key entry mistakes are not corrected

– Record keeping varies greatly among certifiers

– Currently less reliable but more timely and available to users
NEXT STEPS

CERTIFIER ACREAGE AND LIVESTOCK DATA
RELIABLE | ACCURATE | TIMELY

1. Mandatory Reporting

2. NASS/NOP Data Validation Project

3. Certifier Support from Industry
### 2017 Census of Agriculture

#### Number of Organic Farms and Value of Sales Up From 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms - Certified and Exempt</td>
<td>18,166</td>
<td>14,326</td>
<td>+27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms - Certified</td>
<td>17,741</td>
<td>12,771</td>
<td>+39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms - Exempt</td>
<td>3,065</td>
<td>3,754</td>
<td>-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms - Transitioning Acres</td>
<td>3,723</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>+15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Sales</td>
<td>$7.2B</td>
<td>$3.1B</td>
<td>+57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Value of Sales Per Farm</td>
<td>$401K</td>
<td>$218K</td>
<td>+84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Organic Producer is Younger and More Likely to be Full-time Farmer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Organic Farms</th>
<th>All Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Value of Sales Per Farm</td>
<td>$401K</td>
<td>$190K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Age of Producer</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producers Age 34 or Less</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Producers</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Producers</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Occupation is Farming</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Off Farm at Least One Day</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You

Adam Cline
Head, Census Section
Census and Survey Division
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
(202) 690-8818
adam.cline@usda.gov
www.nass.usda.gov
www.nass.usda.gov/organics