



USDA ORGANIC DATA UPDATE

National Organic Standards Board Meeting
April 24, 2019

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- 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

- Agricultural Marketing Service: 1992-1994
- Agrisystems International (Private): 1995
- Economic Research Service: 1997-2011
- NASS: 2014-2015
- 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

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

	2017	2012	% change
Number of Farms - Certified and Exempt	18,166	14,326	+27
Number of Farms - Certified	17,741	12,771	+39
Number of Farms - Exempt	3,065	3,754	-22
Number of Farms - Transitioning Acres	3,723	3,240	+15
Total Value of Sales	\$7.2B	\$3.1B	+57
Average Value of Sales Per Farm	\$401K	\$218K	+84



2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



Organic Producer is Younger and More Likely to be Full-time Farmer

	Organic Farms	All Farms
Average Value of Sales Per Farm	\$401K	\$190K
Average Age of Producer	51.3	57.5
Producers Age 34 or Less	17%	8%
Male Producers	63%	64%
Female Producers	37%	36%
Primary Occupation is Farming	64%	42%
Worked Off Farm at Least One Day	53%	61%



Thank You



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