

APPROPRIATIONS



USDA–AMS: NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP)

FY15 Actual: \$9.1M • 2014 Farm Bill Authorized: \$15M • OTA FY16 Request: \$9.221M

Funding NOP at \$9.221 million will provide the resources needed to maintain the integrity of the USDA Organic label that domestic and international consumers trust, and help ensure the continued growth of the industry. It will also ensure that the organic regulations evolve to keep pace with consumer expectations. NOP is the flagship program of the organic industry, and is absolutely essential for its continued success. The industry is growing at double-digit numbers—NOP’s funding must grow to keep up.



USDA–NIFA: ORGANIC TRANSITIONS INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAM (ORG)

FY15 Actual: \$4M • OTA FY16 Request: \$5M

ORG funds research, education, and extension projects that help meet farmers’ information and research needs so that they can be successful. The program should be funded at \$5 million to continue and grow this important research.



USDA–FNS: ORGANIC PILOT PROGRAM

OTA FY16 Request: \$10M

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 authorized an organic food pilot program under which school food authorities could explore opportunities to build relationships with local organic companies, farms and food providers to provide healthy and nutritious organic foods to students, without driving up costs. The pilot program would model best practices in bringing fresh, nutritious, affordable organic foods to our schoolkids within the confines of the existing school food cost structure. The program should be funded at \$10 million.



USDA: ORGANIC DATA INITIATIVE (ODI)

FY15 Actual: not specified • 2014 Farm Bill Authorized: \$5M • OTA FY16 Request: \$0.3M—AMS; \$0.25M—NASS; report language

\$309,000 is requested for AMS to continue data collection, and continue and expand organic price reporting services; and \$250,000 is requested for NASS to continue work on the next Organic Production Survey. Through AMS, NASS, and ERS, ODI provides critical data necessary for organic to survive and grow by collecting and disseminating production and sales data needed for risk management tool creation, market stability, and increasing exports. In addition, we request report language urging continued and expanded organic price reporting and organic data collection.



OTHER RELATED ASKS

USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)—report language on public cultivar development

USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)—\$30 million

USDA Food Safety Outreach Program (NIFA)—\$5 million

USDA Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)—\$2.1 million



THERE’S MORE TO **ORGANIC**
THAN MEETS **THE EYE**