**Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Request**

## National Organic Program (NOP) – fund at authorized level of $20 million

The National Organic Program (NOP) is the regulatory program housed within the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service responsible for developing national standards for certified organic agricultural products. These standards assure consumers that products with the USDA organic seal meet consistent, uniform standards. The NOP is vital to meeting growing consumer demand for organic products. Recognizing continued growth of the industry, we ask for $20 million, the full amount authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. This amount reflects the strong growth rate of the sector. Moreover, this would give NOP the resources it needs to enforce the organic regulations globally, to continue to develop international equivalency agreements to expand the market for American organic products worldwide, and to develop organic standards for emerging sectors.

| Fiscal Year 2020 Budget | Fiscal Year 2020 Enacted | Fiscal Year 2021 Budget |
|---|---|---|
| $12 million | $16 million | $12 million |

**Report Language Request:** The committee requests that additional funding provided in this legislation be focused on proactive risk-based investigations and oversight, enhanced training for certifiers, and standards development.

## Organic Transition Research Program (ORG) – fund at $10 million

The overall goal of the Organic Transition Research Program (ORG) is to support the development and implementation of research, extension and higher education programs to improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers, as well as those who are adopting organic practices and transitioning to organic certification. Practices and systems addressed include those associated with organic crops, organic animal production, and organic systems integrating plant and animal production. ORG consistently receives more funding requests than can be accommodated as consumer demand for organic products outpaces domestic production. Without continued funding of ORG as an organic-specific research grant program, this gap will only increase. The program should be funded at $10 million, to facilitate growth of this important research.

| Fiscal Year 2020 Budget | Fiscal Year 2020 Enacted | Fiscal Year 2021 Budget |
|---|---|---|
| $0 | $6 million | $6 million |

**Report Language Request:** The committee recognizes that the shortage of organic knowledge transfer presents a major barrier for farmers seeking to transition to organic. The additional funding for ORG provided in this bill shall be used to amplify cooperative extension activities to transfer technical results from proposed ORG projects and assist conventional farmers in transitioning to organic.

**Organic Data Initiative (ODI) – fund at authorized level of $1 million**
The Organic Data Initiative (ODI) collects and disseminates data regarding organic agriculture through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). This program has been successful in providing valuable information to Congress, government agencies, and the organic industry at a low cost. The Organic Trade Association asks for funding specifically designated to the Organic Data Initiative authorized in the 2018 farm bill, and urges strong intra-agency cooperation on continuing and expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

**Report Language Request:** The organic industry has grown at a tremendous rate over the past several years, and accurate data for the production, pricing and marketing of organic products is essential to maintaining stable markets, identifying fraud, creating risk management tools, tracking production trends, and increasing exports. The National Organic Program should require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by accredited certifying agents on aggregate production area certified by crop and location in order to accurately calculate organic acreage and yield estimates on a country-by-country basis.

Additionally, USDA shall report to Congress within one year on the department's current collection and publication of organic data and identify gaps in the reporting or collection of organic specific data.