



Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Request

National Organic Program (NOP) – fund at authorized level of \$22 million

The National Organic Program 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 \$22 million, the full amount authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. 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 2021 Budget	Fiscal Year 2021 Enacted	Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
\$12 million	\$18 million	?

Report Language Request: The committee requires that additional funding provided in this legislation be exclusively focused on standards development.

Bill Language Request: “Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register and seek public comment on an Organic Improvement Action Plan that identifies and sets forth the recommendations approved by the National Organic Standards Board by a decisive vote and submitted to the Secretary that have not been implemented by a final rule or any other agency action with clear timelines for implementation.”

Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP)- \$12 million

The Organic Certification Cost Share program is important to attracting new, young farmers to organic. Farms can receive up to \$750 each year (75% of the certification fee) to help defray the annual costs of organic certification. This program is funded through mandatory farm bill spending, but last year USDA announced that reimbursement rates for certification costs would be cut to 50% of the certified organic operation’s eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope due to funding shortfalls. We urge the inclusion of this additional funding to ensure that organic farms and businesses can continue to count on this long-standing program to help offset their certification costs.

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 2021 Budget	Fiscal Year 2021 Enacted	Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
\$6 million	\$7 million	?

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.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget	Fiscal Year 2021 Enacted	Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
\$0	\$500,000	?