



**Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Request**

**National Organic Program (NOP) – fund at authorized level of \$24 million**

The National Organic Program is the regulatory program housed within the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service responsible for developing and enforcing 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 \$24 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.

<b>Fiscal Year 2022 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2023 Budget</b>
\$20 million	\$19.4 million

**Report Language Request:** The committee requests that the National Organic Program provide a full report to Congress on their departmental budget with a breakdown on key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities and standards development. The committee also requests a breakdown of expenditures and status of the \$5 million in mandatory funding providing by the 2018 farm bill for NOP technology upgrades.

**Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP)- \$5 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 for the last two years 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.

<b>Fiscal Year 2022 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2023 Budget</b>
\$7.5 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.

<b>Fiscal Year 2022 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2023 Budget</b>
\$1 million	\$0