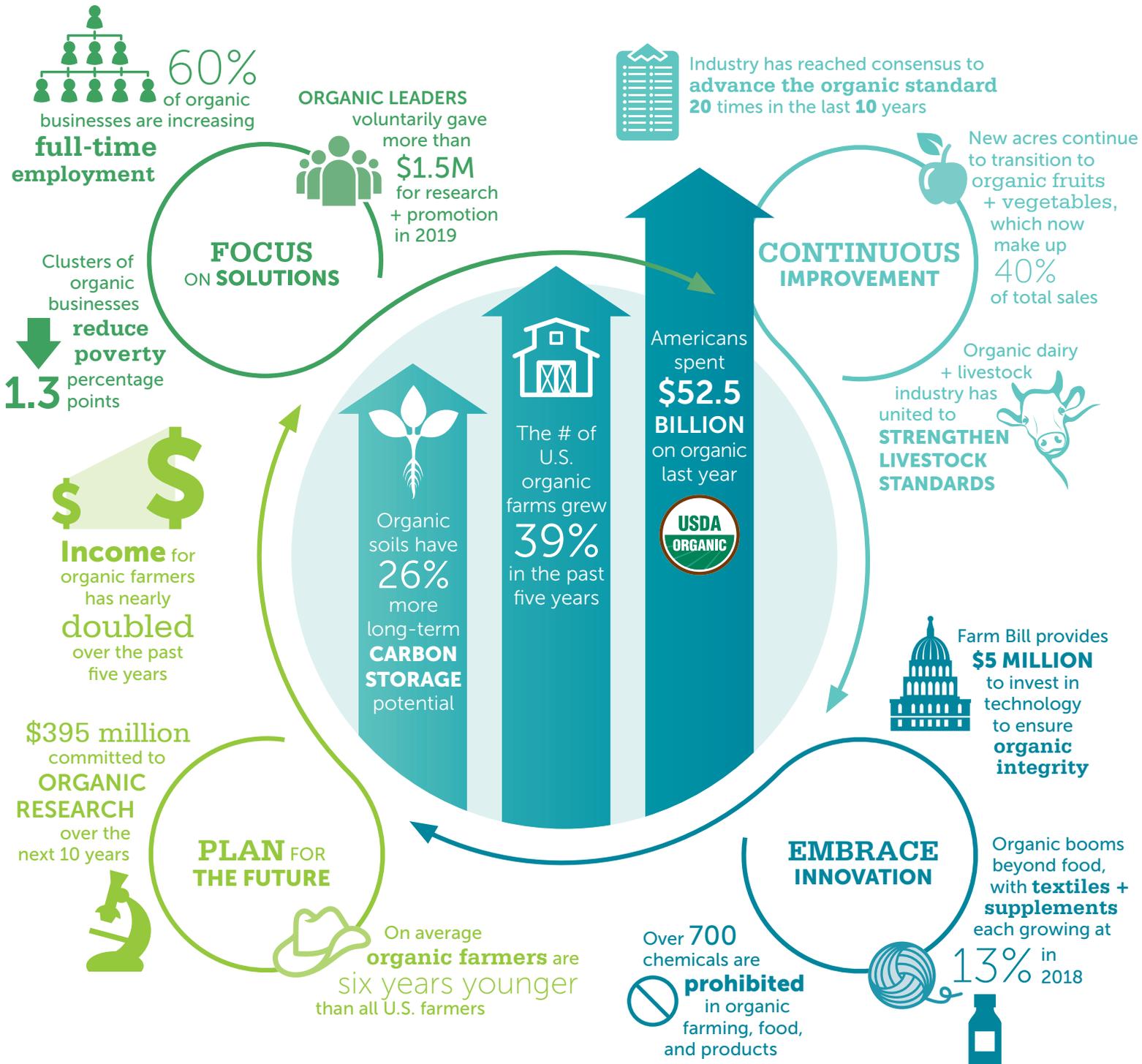


# Organic. Change for the Better.

Organic is built on a commitment to shape our future for the better. Consumer expectations drive improvement, and organic farmers and businesses work hard to have a positive impact on people and the planet.



Continuous improvement is at the root of organic food and farming. That's why we are committed to advance the standards on behalf the 82% of U.S. households that purchase organic products. Learn more about what we're doing and how you can get involved at [OTA.com](http://OTA.com).

## CITATIONS



A groundbreaking study by Northeastern University scientists and The Organic Center found organic soils have **26% more long-term carbon storage**, curbing carbon's transfer to the atmosphere. *Advances in Agronomy*, Vol. 146, 2017.



**The # of U.S. certified organic farms grew 39%** to 17,741 in 2017, from 12,771 in 2012. *2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2019.*



**Americans spent \$52.5 billion on organic in 2018**, with organic food sales at \$47.9 billion and organic non-food sales reaching \$4.6 billion. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**60% of organic businesses are increasing full-time employment** as demand continues to expand. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**Clusters of organic businesses reduce poverty 1.3 percentage points** — more than some major anti-poverty programs. *U.S. Organic Hotspots and their Benefit to Local Economies, Edward C. Jaenicke, May 2016.*



**Organic leaders voluntarily gave more than \$1.5M for research + promotion in 2019** by investing in GRO Organic programs. *Organic Trade Association, May 2019.*



**Industry has reached consensus to advance the organic standard 20 times in the last 10 years** — yet USDA has not implemented any of the recommendations. *Organic Trade Association, based on NOSB meetings.*



**Each year, new acres transition to organic fruits + vegetables**, with the organic fruit and vegetable category now rising to \$17.4 billion in sales, accounting for 14.6% of total fruit and vegetable sales. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**Organic dairy + livestock industry has united to strengthen livestock standards** by working with the House Organic Caucus to submit a letter to the House Appropriations Committee to seek support for organic in the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bill, including language requiring USDA to issue a final rule on Origin of Livestock standards. *April 4, 2019, letter to House Appropriations Committee Chair and Ranking Member.*



**The 2018 Farm Bill provides \$5 million to the National Organic Program to invest in technology** systems such as blockchain to modernize and improve international organic trade tracking and prevent fraud. *2018 Farm Bill.*



**Organic booms beyond food, with textiles + supplements each growing at 13%** and total organic non-food product sales reaching \$4.8 billion. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**Over 700 chemicals are prohibited in organic farming, food, and products.** Over 3,000 additives are allowed in conventional food compared to just 67 in organic. See [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov).



According to the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture, **organic farmers are six years younger on average than other farmers** — 57.5 years old average for all farmers vs. 51.3 years old for organic farmers. *USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2019.*



**2018 Farm Bill increases funding for organic research to \$50 million per year** by 2023, establishing permanent baseline funding for the program. *2018 Farm Bill.*



**Income for organic farmers has nearly doubled over the past five years:** \$400,603 average income for organic farms in 2017, up from \$217,836 in 2012. *2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2019.*