

> ASK: FUND THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM AT AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF \$24 MILLION

The National Organic Program (NOP) is the regulatory program housed within the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service responsible for developing and enforcing national standards for certified organic agricultural products. The NOP is vital to meeting growing consumer demand for organic products. Congress should also provide oversight of NOP's budget and ensure that any additional increase in funding be exclusively focused on organic standards development.

FY22 enacted: \$20 million

> ASK: FUND THE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM AT \$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. Due to funding shortfalls USDA reduced reimbursement rates to 50% of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500. 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.

FY22 enacted: Report language encouraging USDA to restore cost-share to 75%

> ASK: FUND THE ORGANIC TRANSITIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM 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. ORG consistently receives more funding requests than can be accommodated as consumer demand for organic products outpaces domestic production.

FY22 enacted: \$7.5 million

> ASK: FUND THE ORGANIC DATA INITIATIVE 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. Funding this program will support intra-agency cooperation on continuing and expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

FY22 enacted: \$1 million

For more information, contact:

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