

## 2018 Farm Bill Summary of Organic Programs and Priorities

The Organic Trade Association’s Farm Bill platform calls for full support and adequate funding for the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) to keep pace with industry growth, set uniform standards, and carry out compliance and enforcement actions in the U.S. and abroad. It advocates for organic-focused research, risk management tools, data collection and direct dialog between industry and USDA that are critical to organic farmers’ success. It calls for improved access to land and capital, investment in distribution systems and infrastructure, and targeted technical assistance through the utilization of existing USDA conservation, rural development, and other programs to encourage orderly transition to organic. Organic is a very small piece of the larger farm bill, but those core programs we have are important to maintain. Our goal is to build on the programs that address the unique needs of organic, and to make the kind of progress that represents the tremendous growth in the organic industry. The Organic Trade Association is actively advocating for, and tracking progress on, policies that promote a healthy organic marketplace, ensure that organic farmers continue to be successful, and ultimately expand organic production. This side-by-side shows how our priorities are faring as the House and Senate bills advance.






### CURRENT STATE OF PLAY:

- April 12, 2018:** House releases draft Farm Bill
- April 18, 2018:** House Farm Bill approved and passed out of House Agriculture Committee
- June 8, 2018:** Release of Senate draft Farm Bill
- June 13, 2018:** Senate Farm Bill approved and passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee
- June 21, 2018:** House Farm Bill passes on House floor
- June 28, 2018:** Senate Farm Bill passes on Senate floor
- September 30, 2018:** Current Farm Bill expires



**What’s Next?** The House and Senate will conduct a Conference Committee to work out differences between the two bills and report a final Farm Bill.



	PROGRAM	2014 FARM BILL	OTA 2018 FARM BILL REQUEST	HOUSE BILL	SENATE BILL
    	National Organic Program	\$15 million per year (authorization for appropriations)	FY19–\$16.5 million FY20–\$18 million FY21–\$20 million FY22–\$22 million FY23–\$24 million	FY19–\$16.5 million FY20–\$18 million FY21–\$20 million FY22–\$22 million FY23–\$24 million	FY19–\$16.5 million FY20–\$18 million FY21–\$20 million FY22–\$22 million FY23–\$24 million
	Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	\$20 million per year (mandatory funding)	Increased funding to achieve baseline of \$50 million per year by 2023	\$30 million per year  This is the first increase for OREI in a decade. It was the only program in the entire research title to receive an increase in funding.	FY19–\$40 million FY20–\$40 million FY21–\$45 million FY22–\$50 million FY23–\$50 million  This is the largest increase in OREI funding ever. It achieves permanent baseline funding for the program.
	Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives	\$5 million (mandatory funding)	\$5 million	\$5 million	\$5 million

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**OTA 2018 FARM  
BILL REQUEST**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>2014 FARM BILL</b>	<b>OTA 2018 FARM BILL REQUEST</b>	<b>HOUSE BILL</b>	<b>SENATE BILL</b>
 <b>NOP technology upgrade</b>	\$5 million (one-time mandatory funding) for technology upgrades. Used to create the NOP Organic Integrity Database	\$5 million for technology systems upgrades to modernize and improve international trade tracking systems and data collection.	\$5 million	\$5 million
<b>National Organic Certification Cost Share Program</b>	\$11.5 million per year (mandatory funding)	Maintain funding	Program authorized without funding	\$11.5 million per year
 <b>National Organic Program Enforcement</b>	Increased enforcement tools with due process protections.	Increased enforcement and oversight across the entire global supply chain. (H.R. 3871/S. 2927)	Includes H.R. 3871, The Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act.	Includes S.2927, The Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act.
<b>Conservation</b>	Language to improve organic access to conservation programs.	Maintain Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic Initiative (EQIP OI) and expand access for transitioning organic farmers in conservation programs.	Maintains EQIP OI and expands access for transitioning organic farmers in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Maintains the Transitions Incentive Program (TIP).	Maintains EQIP OI and raises the payment limitation from \$20,000 per year to \$160,000 per year. *(Senator Leahy amendment)  Expands access for organic farmers and farmers transitioning to organic in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).  Further incentivizes transition to organic within the CRP TIP program by giving transitioning farmers a two-year headstart on their organic certification. *(Klobuchar amendment)

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PROGRAM	2014 FARM BILL	OTA 2018 FARM BILL REQUEST	HOUSE BILL	SENATE BILL
Crop Insurance	Requires USDA to complete organic price series within 36 months.	<p>Direct RMA to continue additional organic price elections.</p> <p>Review policies that cap Contract Price Addendums at two-times the conventional price election.</p> <p>Continue Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and recognize the change in farm revenue after a farm has transitioned to organic.</p> <p>Direct FSA to develop organic price elections for storage loans.</p> <p>Direct RMA to consider organic farming practices when developing the "good farming practices guide."</p>	<p>Continues Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.</p> <p>Includes discount for beginning farmers that participate in Whole Farm Revenue Protection.</p>	<p>Continues Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.</p> <p>Directs RMA to consider organic farming practices when developing the "good farming practices guide" and ensures that organic producers' ability to obtain crop insurance is not negatively impacted.</p> <p>Requires crop insurance agents to be knowledgeable in organic farming systems as part of their continuing education.</p>
National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)	No Changes	No Changes	<p>Clarifies that an employee of a farmer can serve on the farmer seat.</p> <p>Increases consultation between NOSB, EPA and FDA on materials review through task forces.</p> <p>Expedited review procedures for petitioned materials for postharvest handling substances related to food safety. *(the original language included in the House draft bill would've created a process for emergency review of crop protection and food safety materials not bound by NOSB authority on the national list. Rep. Davis offered an amendment that passed in committee markup that preserves NOSB's role in all petitions.</p>	Codifies the requirement for an amendment to the National List to be a decisive vote that requires 2/3 of the votes cast at a meeting of the National Organic Standards Board at which a quorum is present.
Other				Includes the national organic program under issues covered by state agricultural mediation programs.