

The \$69.7 billion annual U.S. organic food and fiber sector is integral to American agriculture. The industry represents one of the country's fastest-growing food and fiber categories. 20 years of organic growth has resulted from the marketplace rewarding and confirming the value of organic producers and processors.

OTA's top 3 Farm Bill priorities will empower the US organic industry to meet future challenges and consumer demands.

1 ORGANIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT ACT (OMD) S.2936/H.R. 5763

OMD continues federal investment in organic infrastructure by codifying an existing USDA program to ensure processing infrastructure exists to bring organic agricultural products from farms to consumers. In 2023, \$218 million in applications were received for \$75 million of available OMD funding.

The OMD Act provides \$75M annually with an authorization for \$25M each year:

- Empowers the organic community to meet consumer demand;
- Connects farmers to markets;
- Protects farmers from international market fluctuations; and
- Shores up our domestic supply chain.

The Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024 authorizes OMD at **\$50M** annually.

2 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ORGANIC STANDARDS ACT (CIAO) H.R. 5973

Continuous improvement is a core tenet of the USDA organic label. The purpose of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) is to "establish national standards" and "assure consumers that organically produced products meet a consistent standard."

CIAO is a bipartisan, no cost bill supported by a strong contingent of the industry
The CIAO Act:

- Clarifies a stakeholder-informed process for organic rulemaking.
- Creates a predictable process informed by current realities.
- CIAO establishes a five-year working period, empowering stakeholders to prepare for and respond to evolving standards. CIAO will ensure rulemaking reflects current research and market demands.

The Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024

- Solicits public input for the National Organic Program (NOP) to set regulatory priorities
- Directs an annual USDA report on National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations, regulatory and administrative actions taken, and why actions were or were not taken; and
- Requires a GAO study on the NOP's efforts to improve organic standards and recommendations on how the NOP can ensure that organic program standards evolve in a timely manner.

3 ORGANIC DAIRY DATA COLLECTION ACT H.R. 6937

The organic dairy industry has a unique supply chain with unique challenges. USDA cannot respond appropriately to crises in the industry without accurate organic milk price and feed cost data.

The bipartisan, no-cost Organic Dairy Data Collection Act is the answer:



- Helps USDA design better organic programs
- Mirrors conventional data collection
- Allows organic feedstuff price tracking
- Promotes farm resilience

The Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024 directs USDA to improve collection of dairy market data.

4 ORGANIC RESEARCH

The Organic Science Research Investment (OSRI) Act, S. 2317, requires improved coordination between USDA research agencies and organic research and extension. The Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024 enhances coordination on organic research in USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

The bipartisan Strengthening Organic Agriculture Research (SOAR) Act, SOAR, H.R. 2720, reauthorizes and increases funding for the Organic Research and Extension Initiative from \$60M to \$100M.