Where have all the dollars gone?
Supporting organic research and programs

Presented by Maureen Wilmot
March 1, 2013
Organic Farming is the leading form of agriculture for healthy people, ecosystems and economies.

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what we do

- Fund research that is relevant and responsive to organic farmers needs
- Cultivate a broader and deeper connection among organic supporters
- Integrate organic farming programs into agricultural universities
- Grow organic champions in Congress and federal agencies

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More than 300 Grants Awarded

Land Grant Assessment Overview

- May 2012 Launch
- Immediate response from Deans

Cultivating Organic Farmers

BACKGROUND

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is the only national, non-profit organization to track and report organic programs and activity in the U.S. land grant system. Our leadership position ensures that education, research, and outreach services are highly responsive to the needs of certified organic farmers and ranchers.

Because federal funds support the land grant system, OFRF expects it to be responsive to the educational and research needs of all its constituents, including the growing organic sector. As the organic industry has grown from $7.4 billion in sales in 2001 to $28.6 billion in 2010, OFRF expects the land grant system to keep up the pace with increased investment in organic research, outreach, and training opportunities.

In 2001 and 2003, OFRF published the first inventories of organic activity in the land grant system. At the time, OFRF used the metric of certified organic research acres as the primary indicator of institutional commitment to conducting research meaningful to organic producers.

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meeting farmer needs

Easy access to relevant organic research

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Outcome: Increase funding for Organic Ag Research and policies that support organic farming

- Build network of organizers
- Increase number of Champions
  - DC Policy team conducted assessment
  - DC Policy team delivers new networks to OFRF
- Increase in-district meetings
  - California, Michigan, Ohio
- Increase number of advocates
  - 100% increase since July 2011
- Increase number of ‘Grasstop’ advocates by 20%
  - Grew from 154 to 198 since January 2012
Senate Agriculture Committee

- 11 Democrats (Chair is Sen. Stabenow, MI) and 9 Republicans (Ranking minority is Sen. Cochran, MS)

- 3 New Democrats joined in January 2013 (IN, ND, MA)
House Agriculture Committee

- 46 Members
  - 25 Republicans
    - 7 Freshmen
  - 21 Democrats
    - 11 Freshmen
- Chair, Frank Lucas (R-OK)
- Ranking Member, Collin Peterson (D-MN)
- Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA 08) new Chairman of Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture Sub Committee

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advocacy network growth

2011 - 2012

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Benefits ALL farming

Provides technical know-how

Better business management

Fostering innovation and enterprise development

Sustains organic integrity – Seeds & Breeds

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"Funding support from OFRF helped to fight soil-borne disease for organic vegetables by successfully identifying disease tolerant rootstocks featured in several publications describing the projects innovative vegetable grafting. Thank you, OFRF!“

-Carol Ann Miles, Washington State University

Grant: Grafting Vegetables for Soil-Borne Disease Resistance

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OFRF helped us build the capacity to produce stock seed lots on our certified organic university research farm, allowing us to partner with organic vegetable trialing projects, such as the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative.

Michael Mazourek, Cornell University

Grant: Seed Increase Trials Lead to Release of Promising New Disease- Resistant Varieties
The grant from OFRF provided validation that my ideas on cultivar mixtures were worthy of closer examination and the funds provided a much needed shot-in-the arm, allowing my research program to get rolling.

John Tooker, Penn State University

Grant: Enhancing insect pest management in organic systems using genotypically diverse cultivar mixtures
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future research trends

- Business management
  - Complex distribution channels
  - Profit & Loss
  - Risk management

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future research trends

- Loss of field researchers
  - Driven by funding for lab-based research
- Growth in university organic programs
  - Student driven
  - Growing need to protect future generations
  - National representation

M. Wilmot, 2013 Organic Reporting Session
### Current Funding for Organic Research & Related Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2012 Funding Goal</th>
<th>2013 Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic Research and Extension Initiative</td>
<td>$20 million</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Data Initiative</td>
<td>$0.8 million</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Organic Cost Share</td>
<td>$4.4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMA Cost Share (not in Farm Bill)</td>
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<td>$1.495 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program</td>
<td>$19 million</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQIP Organic Initiative</td>
<td>$50 million</td>
<td>$15 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Organic Program</td>
<td>$11 million</td>
<td>$7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program (ORG)</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
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</table>

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Assessing the U.S. Land Grant System for organic activity

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A Democratic Institution

- Before president Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act of 1862, higher education was limited to those who could afford private schools.
- The Morrill Act established public universities in every state of the union at an affordable cost.

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In 1890, the Morrill Act was amended to include historically Black colleges in the segregated South

1994 Land Grant Institutions

OFRF looked for organic activity in a total of 72 land grant universities

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why land grant system?

- Supported with federal and state funds, we expect it to respond to all constituencies
- Source of production information for farmers through research and Extension
- Potential sites for training the next generation of organic growers, researchers, and policymakers

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Eight point assessment

- Certified organic research land
- Student organic or “sustainable” farm
- Organic major, minor, or certificate
- Provides organic Extension resources

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Eight point assessment

- Offers an organic course of any kind
- Organic research station ground
- Employs a dedicated organic staff or faculty person
- Hosts annual organic field day

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Colorado State University, Fort Collins
University of Florida, Gainesville
Michigan State University, East Lansing
University of Minnesota, St. Paul
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Washington State University, Pullman

All scored a perfect 8
## Growth in Organic Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># states with certified organic research acres</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># student organic farms</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of organic academic programs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># states offering organic Extension resources</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
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For Organic Research and Extension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>National Ranking</th>
<th>Annual Organic Sales (2008)</th>
<th>Score (of 8 points possible)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,148,650,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$281,970,000</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$212,739,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$155,613,000</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$149,328,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
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<td>$132,764,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID</td>
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<td>6</td>
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Source: USDA: NASS

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Of the 12 states in the region, 8 have student farms.

Michigan and Minnesota scored 8 points; Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin scored 7 points.

Do these programs nurture beginning farmers? Researchers? Informed consumers?
what you can do

- Engage in organic research
- Advocate for organic programs
- Contribute to OFRF

www.ofrf.org

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When an organic farmer succeeds, we all thrive.