

# Where have all the dollars gone?

## Supporting organic research and programs



Presented by Maureen Wilmot  
March 1, 2013

M. Wilmot, Organic  
Reporting



Organic Farming is  
the leading form  
of agriculture for  
healthy people,  
ecosystems  
and economies.

- 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



We build the vital infrastructure that supports the success of organic farmers. Our four areas of focus are:

#### POLICY

Grow organic champions in Congress and federal agencies.

#### EDUCATION

Integrate organic farming programs into all agricultural universities.

#### RESEARCH

Provide research that is relevant and responsive to the organic farmers' needs.

#### COMMUNITY

Cultivate a broader and deeper connection among organic supporters.

#### VISION

Our vision at Organic Farming Research Foundation is very clear: Organic farming will be the leading form of agriculture in America. Organic farming is the backbone to resilient, prosperous people who thrive on a healthy planet.

At Organic Farming Research Foundation we work to increase the number of organic farmers in America, certified organic acres, and organics in our nation's food economy.

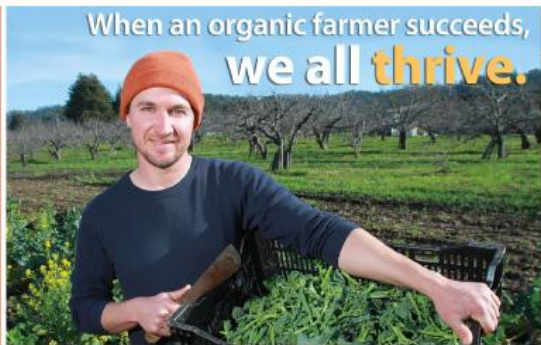
#### PROMISE

Together, we create a world where organic farming is viable, successful, profitable and attractive... Please join us!



ORGANIC FARMING  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## 2012 Organic Land Grant Assessment



### 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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## More than 300 Grants Awarded

## Land Grant Assessment Overview

- May 2012 Launch
- Immediate response from Deans

## Research

For more than twenty years OFRF has been facilitating research for some of the most innovative entrepreneurs in America-- organic farmers. Investment in research has never been more important as we experience tremendous consumer demand for organics. Please explore the organic innovation we invest in every day at OFRF.

## Current Grants



Photo credit: Scott David Gordon  
"Contamination Avoidance and Testing Protocol" Project



Photo credit: CIMMYT  
Developing "Organic-Ready" Maize Populations with Gametophytic Incompatibility Year 2



Breeding day-neutral strawberry cultivars for organic production in the Pacific Northwest

## Research

- OFRF Grant Research Database
- Map of OFRF Grants
- Grant Application Info
- External Resources



Search our extensive research database by topic, crops, region or keywords. We will continue to add research as it becomes available.

## Stay Informed

ON ORGANIC ISSUES

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email \*

Sign up to receive our e-news

### Policy

Grassroots in the Field  
Advocacy on the Hill  
Organic Farming Policy and Conservation Resources  
Toolkits for Advocates

### Research

OFRF Grant Research Database  
Map of OFRF Grants  
Grant Application Info  
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### Education

Organic K-12  
Organic Higher Education  
Beginning/Transitioning Farmer  
Organic Education Resources

### About

Contact  
Board  
Staff  
Jobs and Internships

### Giving

You Make a Difference  
Corporate Donors  
Foundations  
Workplace Giving  
Monthly and Long-Term

Thank you for your generosity:



- OFRF Blog
- Media Kit
- Contact OFRF

Easy access to relevant organic research

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



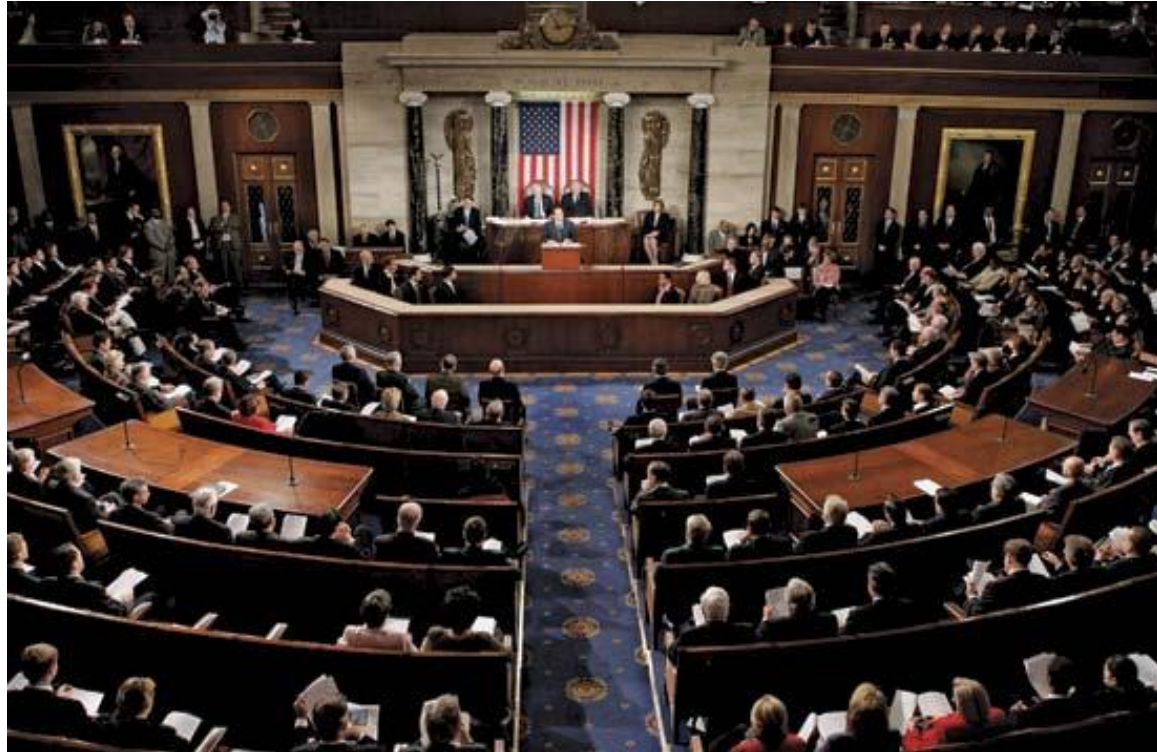
## Senate Agriculture Committee

- 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)



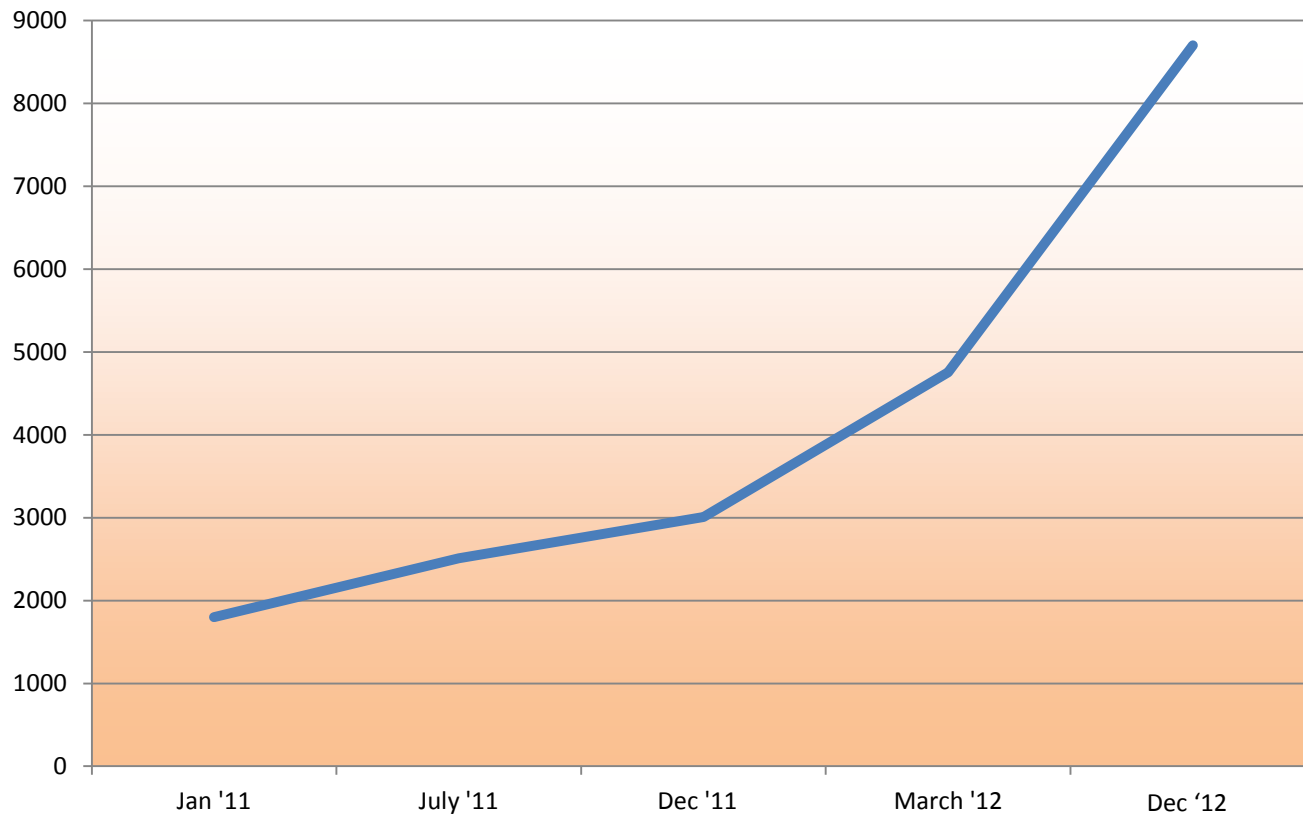
## House Agriculture Committee

- 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





## 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



"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*

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

- 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

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

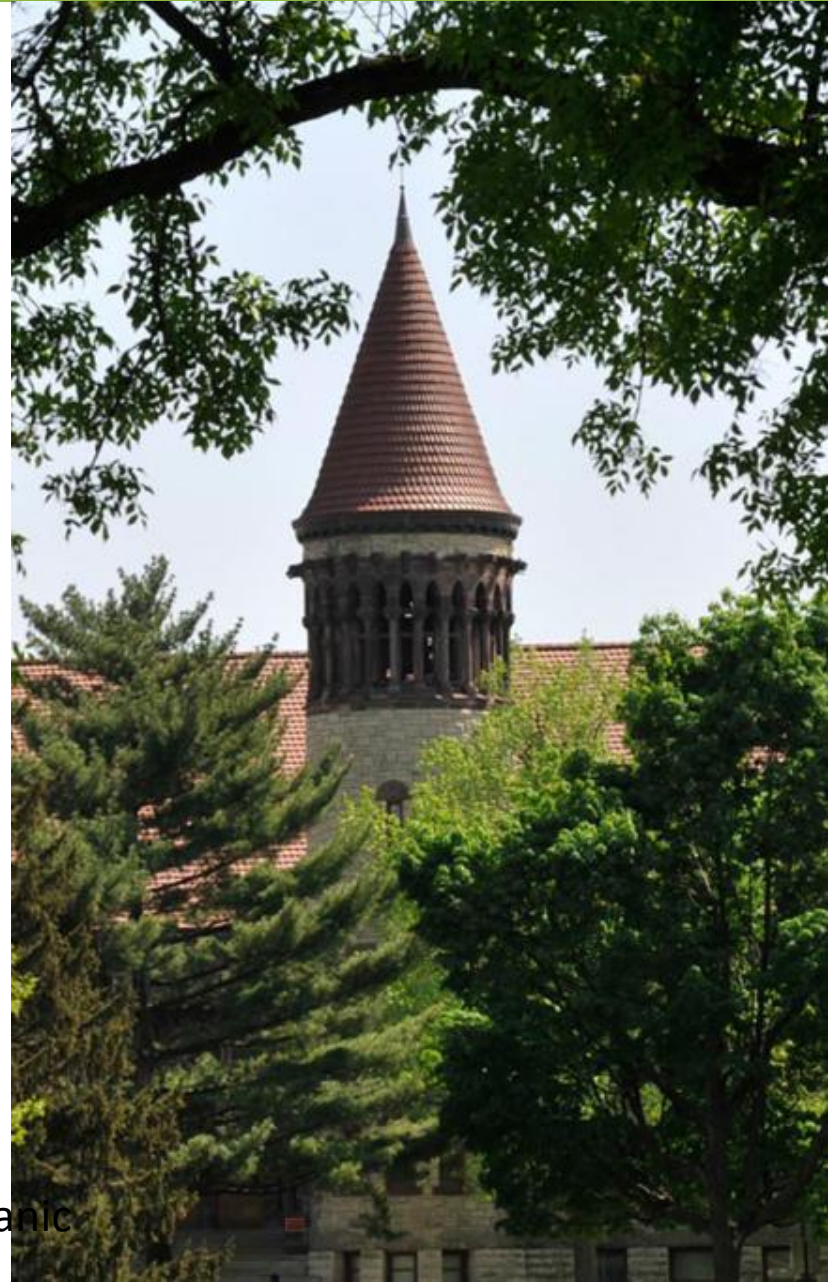


## Assessing the U.S. Land Grant System for organic activity



## 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



- 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



# 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

## Eight point assessment

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

## 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

- 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**

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# growth in organic activity

	2003	2011
# states with certified organic research acres	<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>
# student organic farms	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>
# of organic academic programs	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
# states offering organic Extension resources	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>



## For Organic Research and Extension

State	National Ranking	Annual Organic Sales (2008)	Score (of 8 points possible)
CA	<b>1</b>	\$1,148,650,000	<b>6</b>
WA	2	\$281,970,000	8
PA	3	\$212,739,000	5
OR	4	\$155,613,000	7
TX	<b>5</b>	\$149,328,000	<b>5</b>
WI	6	\$132,764,000	7
NY	7	\$105,133,000	6
VT	8	\$72,857,000	7
IA	9	\$71,545,000	7
ID	<b>10</b>	\$71,250,000	<b>6</b>

- 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?

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

[www.ofrf.org](http://www.ofrf.org)

When an organic farmer succeeds,  
**we all thrive**



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