The Outlook for Organic Agriculture

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The Findings and Conclusions in This Preliminary Presentation Have Not Been Formally Disseminated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Should Not Be Construed to Represent Any Agency Determination or Policy. This research was supported by the intramural research program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.
Topics Today: U.S. Organic Sector Expansion

- U.S. is top market worldwide for organic products
- U.S. organic production sector continues recent expansion
- Organic opportunities exist across commodity sectors—Fruits and vegetables, animal products and grains
- 2018 Farm Bill provides support for production challenges
- Synergies exist between public support and private investment
In 2017, the United States Led the Top Ten Countries with the Largest Markets for Organic Products

U.S. Certified Crop and Livestock Producers Dipped in 2010, but have increased steadily since then.

U.S. Organic Commodity Cash Receipts were $7.6 Billion in 2016—Organics share of total commodity cash receipts topped 2 percent.

DAIRY MARKETS: U.S. Organic Fluid Milk Sales Volume as a Share of Total Sales Volume has Nearly Doubled since 2008—to 5.5 Percent

PRODUCE MARKETS: Many Wholesale Price Premiums are Holding Steady—For ex., organic cauliflower premiums in Atlanta and San Francisco

USDA survey data show that organic corn and soybean production have lower yields and higher total economic costs than conventional systems.

ERS research findings show that organic price premiums more than offset higher production costs for organic corn and soybean production.

Increased research on organic farming systems may help farmers with weed management and other challenges in organic grain production.
U.S. TRADE: Tracked U.S. Organic Exports are Mostly Fresh Fruits and Vegetables—
Tracked U.S. Organic Imports Include Tropical Products, Grains and Other Products

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Trade Database;
Inflation-Adjusted Mandatory Spending on Organic Agriculture, 2002-2018 Farm Acts

* Includes $5 million in 2018 to improve organic import tracking and verification.
** Does not include intramural organic research funds in USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

For more information

USDA-ERS Organic Agriculture Topic Page:

USDA Organic Topic Page:
https://www.usda.gov/topics/organic