



ORGANIC
FARMING
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



Greetings!

With just days to spare, we exited 2018 with a Farm Bill that makes long overdue investments in organic agriculture, including \$395 million for organic agriculture research and education over the next ten years. Thanks to the hard work of OFRF and a broad coalition of organic champions, we achieved historic permanent baseline funding for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI).

Organic farming is a more knowledge- and science-based way of doing things. You need to understand the lifecycles and biological interactions of pests. You need to know how soil works. It's a completely different system and there's so much more you need to know to farm organically. That's why research focused on organic is so valuable.

Thank you for your support!



Jeremy Barker-Plotkin, OFRF Board President and Organic Farmer, Simple Gifts Farm, Amherst, Massachusetts



“Living near a creek and seeing the life that’s there is incredible. While it is resilient, it’s also very vulnerable to our influences. It’s important to make sure your food choices don’t impair that. When we buy organic, we think beyond ourselves. Our choices have huge impacts in other parts of the world.”

**Mike Appel, Three Springs Farm
Tulsa, Oklahoma**



2018 FARM BILL



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION INITIATIVE

OFRF REQUEST Increased funding to achieve baseline of \$50 million annually.
2014 FARM BILL: \$20 million / year (mandatory funding)

2018 FARM BILL

FY 2019-**\$20 million**
FY 2020-**\$20 million** Secures baseline
FY 2021-**\$25 million** funding for OREI
FY 2022-**\$30 million** by 2023
FY 2023-**\$50 million**

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

OFRF REQUEST FY 2019 - \$16.5 million / FY 2020 - \$18 million / FY 2021 - \$20 million / FY 2022 - \$22 million / FY 2023 - \$24 million
2014 FARM BILL: \$15 million / year (authorization for appropriations)

2018 FARM BILL

Gradual increase in authorized funding from
FY 2019-FY 2023 **in-line with OFRF's request**

ORGANIC PRODUCTION & MARKET DATA INITIATIVES

OFRF REQUEST \$5 million (mandatory funding)
2014 FARM BILL: \$5 million (mandatory funding)

2018 FARM BILL

\$5 MILLION

NOP TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

OFRF REQUEST \$5 million for technology systems upgrades to modernize & improve international trade tracking systems & data collection.
2014 FARM BILL: \$5 million (one-time mandatory funding) for technology upgrades. Used to create the NOP Organic Integrity Database

2018 FARM BILL

\$5 MILLION

NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

OFRF REQUEST Maintain funding
2014 FARM BILL: \$11.5 million per year (mandatory funding)

2018 FARM BILL

\$2 million for FY 2019/20 An additional \$16.5 million for cost share
\$4 million for FY 2021 from the 2014 Farm Bill should also be
\$8 million for FY 2022/23 made available to support the program.

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM ENFORCEMENT

OFRF REQUEST Increased enforcement and oversight across the entire global supply chain. (H.R. 3871/S. 2927)
2014 FARM BILL: Increased enforcement tools with due process protections.

2018 FARM BILL

Increased organic enforcement and authority for the NOP similar to the Senate Committee Farm Bill which included S.2927, The Organic Farmer & Consumer Protection Act.

Education & Outreach

Soil Health and Organic Farming Guidebooks & Webinars

10,000

Guidebook Downloads



4,392

Webinar Registrants



947

Webinar Attendees



3,782

Youtube Views



**FARMERS,
AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONALS,
AND RESEARCHERS FROM**

43 STATES

**&
11 COUNTRIES**

ATTENDED THESE WEBINARS.

Soil Health and Organic Farming

Organic Practices for Climate Mitigation,
Adaptation, and Carbon Sequestration



By Mark Schonbeck,
Diana Jerkins, Lauren Snyder



The eighth guidebook in our immensely popular Soil Health and Organic Farming Series examines research related to the capacity of sustainable organic systems and practices to sequester soil carbon and minimize nitrous oxide and methane emissions. The guide includes practical advice for reducing agriculture's "carbon footprint" and adapting to climate disruptions already underway.

"I have struggled to grasp some of the concepts of building and maintaining good soil. The 'light' went on while watching this webinar. Thanks so much!"

Webinar Attendee

"These workshops are really helpful. I'm an organic seed farmer, so I've been able to access a treasure trove of information about growing organic, running variety trials, and plant breeding."

Webinar Attendee

“Farmers and ranchers have a major stake in curbing further climate change. Ultimately, we believe these soil health guides will be critical to informing the direction of new research, policies, and programs that address barriers to the adoption of practices that help reverse the effects of climate change and increase resilience.”

Brise Tencer, Executive Director, OFRF



Lauren Snyder, Education & Program Associate, OFRF and Dr. Ashraf Tubeileh, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California filming video segment for new online course

CDFA Funds Partnership to Produce Online Course for Beginning Farmers

OFRF is partnering with the University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP), and the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Center for Sustainability to create a free online course that will provide instruction on key principles and practices of organic production in California specialty crops. In addition to descriptive essays, interviews with organic researchers, and short lecture videos by university faculty, the course will include on-farm demonstration videos that illustrate the implementation of a variety of organic practices, such as growing cover crops for weed management and soil fertility, and

methods for composting using a variety of feedstocks. This project is being funded by the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) and will be introduced in 2019.

Reducing Risk through Best Soil Health Management Practices in Organic Crop Production



In cooperation with USDA-Risk Management Agency, OFRF produced two new guidebooks and webinars on how organic and transitioning growers can manage on-farm risk through crop insurance programs and soil health management.

Introduction to Crop Insurance for Organic and Transitioning Producers



2018 Research Grant Funding



"It's fundamental that we have research and that it's dedicated to organic systems because we are operating in a different mindset. We see ourselves as land stewards, rather than just trying to produce something for profit in a mechanistic way. The systems we're engaging with and the disease and pest pressures are very different. Continued research is crucial because the more we know, the more we learn that we don't know. The most successful trials that I've been involved with are those that weren't just by an individual farmer or researcher, but by the partnership between the two."

April Thatcher, April Joy Farm

"If I develop a variety that has really good disease resistance, it's going to result in farmers spraying a lot less herbicides and it will be a lot healthier for the farmers, farmworkers, land and waterways, as well as the people eating the food. Food should be something that increases our health not diminishes it. I think it's essential that we find ways of farming that are good for the land and good for our health."



Edmund Frost, Common Wealth Seed Growers, Louisa, Virginia

On-farm Assessment of Melon and Cucumber Feedstocks for Downy Mildew and Bacterial Wilt
Farmers throughout the Eastern U.S. cite Bacterial Wilt and Downy Mildew as issues for melon and cucumber production. This research is a direct response to the need for new resistant varieties that have the potential to make management easier, decrease losses, and extend the harvest period.



Graduate student, Tim Jacobs, explains OFRF-funded research on biosolarization at Cal Poly—a technique organic farmers can implement to control weeds, pathogens, and nematodes. Photo shows bare soil where biosolarization was used and weeds where biosolarization was not used.

Dr. Ashraf Tubeileh, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California
Effect of Biosolarization and Cover Crops on Weeds and Soil-borne Pathogens
There is a critical need for safe, alternative methods of soil fumigation to control weeds. Dr. Tubeileh and his team are studying the effect of biosolarization and cover crops on weeds and soil-borne pathogens.

FFAR Awards Matching Funds for OFRF's 2019 Research Grants

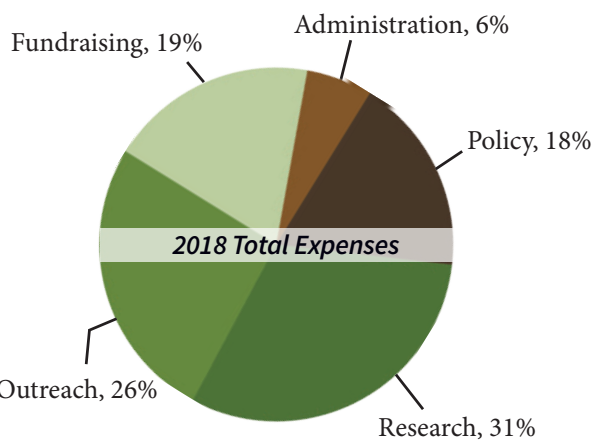
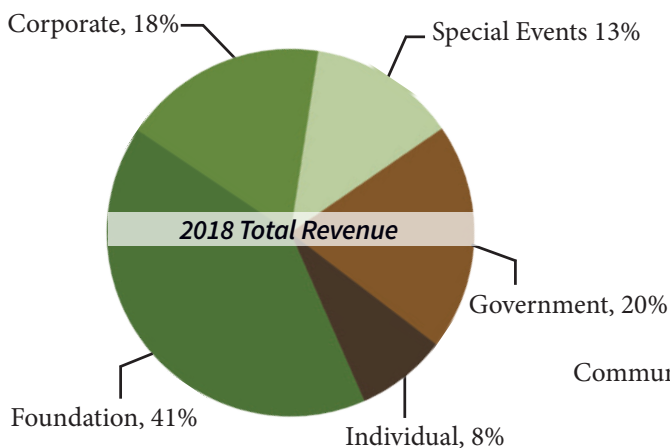
OFRF's research program got a big boost thanks to a matching grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). The \$66,000 match will be used to support OFRF's 2019 organic research grant awards related to soil health, including practices to enhance carbon sequestration, reduced tillage systems, and fertility management focused on reducing environmental impacts and improving soil health.

"Collaboration is a cornerstone of FFAR's mission. We feel that this partnership is a prime example of what we value at FFAR: growing nutritious food sustainably on thriving farms. While FFAR supports research in all types of production systems, we are excited about this first foray into organic agriculture."

LaKisha Odom, Scientific Program Director, FFAR



FINANCIALS



OFRF's complete Financial Reports are available at ofrf.org

Organic Farming Research Foundation works to foster the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. OFRF cultivates organic research, education, and federal policies that bring more farmers and acreage into organic production.

All OFRF-funded research results and educational publications are shared freely at ofrf.org.

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Thank you for your support!

\$50,000+

California Department of Food and Agriculture
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Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program - Western Region
United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency

\$25,000+

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Clif Bar Family Foundation
CROPP Cooperative/
Organic Valley Family of Farms
Globetrotter Foundation
Marisla Foundation
Whole Foods Market

\$15,000+

Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County (Driscoll's)
Lundberg Family Farms
National Co+op Grocers
Patagonia Works
UNFI Foundation

\$5,000+

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Dole Fresh Fruit Company
Earthbound Farm
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Marrone Bio Innovations
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Organic Produce Network
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Vitalis Organic Seeds

\$1,000+

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Heath and Lejeune
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Scoular Grain
Sean Mallet
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Smucker Natural Foods
Star Route Farms
Stonyfield Organic
Straus Family Creamery
Godfrey and Marylisa Tencer
The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

\$500+

Benevity - Community Impact Fund
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