

California Organic 2012 Farm Bill Priorities

Presentation by
CCOF Executive Director
Cathy Calfo
to the California
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**CCOF certifies organic products,
educates consumers and members,
and advocates for forward-thinking
food policy.**



CCOF Membership

- 2,400 farmers, ranchers, processors, handlers and retailers
- 1,300 members fall within the USDA “Small Farm” definition
- 1,000 members with gross annual sales of less than \$100,000
- Also includes a number of large-scale operations, including:



Food to live by.



California Organic: Leading the Nation

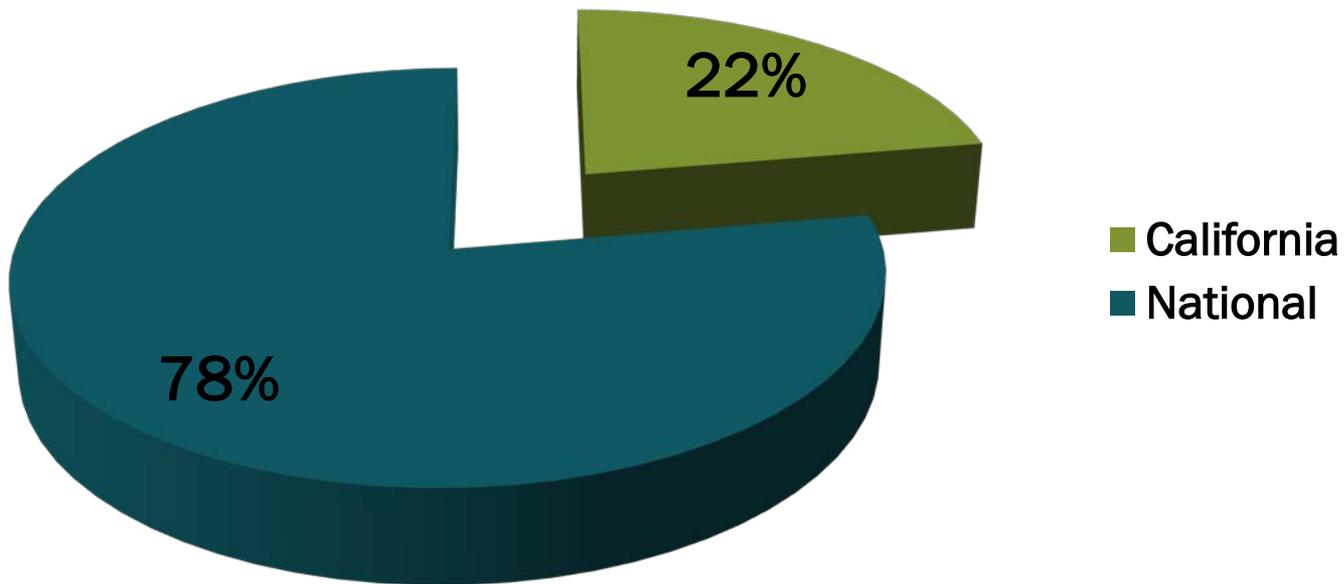


- \$1.39 billion organic sales
- 39.3% of U.S. organic sales
- Two-thirds of organic fruits, vegetables, and nuts nationwide
- 90% of all U.S. organic sales for 14 commodities

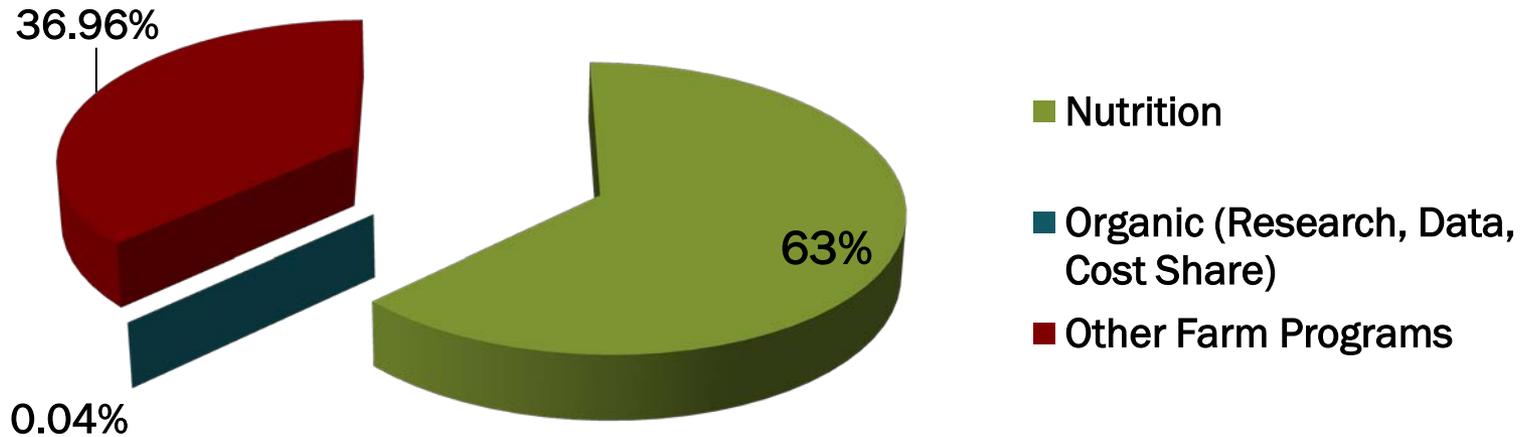


California Organic: Six-fold growth during past 10 years

22% of Organic farms in the Nation



Organic in the US Farm Bill



CCOF Farm Bill Priorities

- National Organic Program (NOP)
- Organic Certification Cost Share
- Research
- Crop Insurance
- Conservation
- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program



National Organic Program



- Seal verifies that prohibited pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, GMOs and other prohibited materials are not used in production
- NOP accredits certifiers, enforces standards and facilitates trade agreements (Canada, EU, Taiwan and Japan)



National Organic Certification Cost Share Program

- **Lowers entry barrier for new organic farmers**
- **Helps to keep small producers certified**
- **Provides annual reimbursement up to \$750 for certification costs**



Research

Organic Agriculture Research & Extension Initiative (OREI)

- Key driver of economic growth
- Sparks innovation
- Organic currently 4% of market, but only a fraction of research funding
- Program Examples:
 - System-based solutions to soil and weed problems
 - Developing new cotton varieties appropriate to organic production
 - Analyzing the economics of organic transition
 - Managing pests and diseases



Research

Plant & Animal Breeding

- Diverse organic seed and breed supply for resilience
- Locally-adapted cultivars are critical to farmers' success
- Organic farming needs not met by focus on genomics and biotech fails



Research

Organic Data Initiative (ODI)

- Tracks organic production quantities, prices, exports
- Provides needed baseline for crop insurance compensation



Crop Insurance

- Organic producers now pay 5% surcharge – need to remove the surcharge (data collection)
- Organic producers should be reimbursed at organic, not conventional prices – reimbursements should be based on crop value
- Limited coverage options for diversified farms – need to expand



Conservation

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

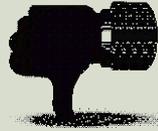
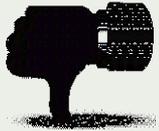
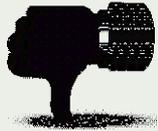
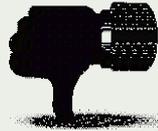
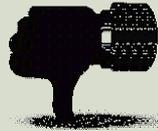
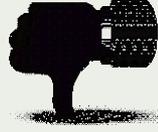
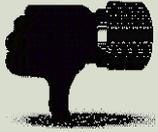
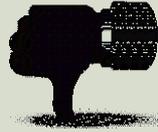


- Farm operators over 65 years of age outnumber those under 35 by 7 to 1
- USDA competitive grant program provides training to beginning farmers and ranchers



Organic Farm Bill Priorities:

How they fare:

	Current Senate Version	Current House Version	Clean Extension (no amendments)
National Organic Program			
Organic Certification Cost Share		 	
Research			
Conservation			
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers			

What's Next?

Lame Duck Bill Passed	House returns post election, brings Farm Bill to floor, passes with amendments, sent to conference with the Senate-passed bill. Final bill approved by both houses, signed by year end.
Negotiated Bill	Attached to other legislation during lame duck session.
Short-term Extension of 2008 Farm Bill	Process begins anew. Farm Bill passes in 2013?
No Action	



Organizing Our Members



Partnering with Others

- Organic Trade Association (OTA)
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)
- NSAC California Caucus:

Roots of Change

National Center
for Appropriate
Technology
NCAT

CalCAN
California Climate & Agriculture Network



Educating Policy Makers and the Public

- Visit Congressional offices
- Farm tours
- Action Alerts
- Op-eds/Letters to editors



For More Information

visit CCOF.org



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