DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Status of Organic Agriculture in Minnesota – 2025

A Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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Contents

Executive Summary 4
Introduction 4
Selected USDA organic farming requirements 5
Background 5
Primary data sources 6
Organic Farm and Market Trends 6
Organic adoption and production 6
Organic prices 9
Market Demand 12
Organic Consumer Insights 13
Minnesota Organic Farmer Experiences 14
Current State and Federal Programs Directed Toward Organic Agriculture 23
Minnesota Department of Agriculture 23
Minnesota Organic Conference 23
Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP) 23
Transition to Organic Cost-Share 24
Organic activities by partner organizations 25
Recommendations 33
Previous recommendations – progress toward goals 33
Current recommendations 35
References 37
Appendix A. 2025 Minnesota Organic Farmer Survey 38
Appendix B. Minnesota Organic Conference Educational Breakout Sessions 2021-2024 42
2021 (virtual) 42
2022 (virtual) 42
2023 42
2024 43
Appendix C. Minnesota Organic Legislative History 45
Appendix D. Data Sets 49
Number of certified organic handlers and farmers per county, 2024 49
Organic feed grade corn prices from 2021-2024 50
Organic feed grade soybean prices from 2021-2024 51
Organic feed grade wheat prices from 2021-2024 51
Organic and conventional milk prices in Minnesota from 2020-2024 52
U.S. organic sales from 2020-2024 52
U.S. organic food growth vs. total food growth from 2019-2024 52

Executive Summary

The U.S. and global organic markets continue to grow, providing increasing opportunity for Minnesota organic farmers of all kinds. The U.S. organic food market totaled more than $70 billion in 2024, with Minnesota organic farm production and sales ranking in the Top 10 for 15 types of crops and livestock (including livestock products like milk). Organic farmers are concerned about imports, labor cost and availability, and competition from unregulated competing labels like “regenerative,” and “non-GMO.”

Despite the increasing overall demand for organic products, the number of organic farms in Minnesota fell by nearly 13% between 2021 and 2024, to an estimated 616. This decrease was on par with national trends. There is strong market demand, and the USDA responded to the decline in acres by introducing the Transition to Organic Partnership Program. Potentially due to USDA’s Strengthening of Organic Enforcement, there’s been close to a 6% increase in certified organic handlers with facilities in Minnesota, which add value to raw organic products through processing, packaging, and/or distribution.

Organic farms are widely distributed across the state, with production typically resembling that of their non-organic counterparts in our various agro-ecoregions. Unlike most organic fruit and vegetable farmers who began their careers as organic growers, most Minnesota organic crop and dairy farmers converted to organic from conventional production. While they acknowledge production challenges and concerns, most organic farmers appear to feel positive about their decision to farm organic. A little less than half believe organic production costs are lower, while a little more than half believe profitability is higher. Nearly 60% believe they or a family member will be farming in 20 years. But this doesn’t come without effort: they cite major challenges including competition from imports, public confusion about the organic label, labor availability and cost, land cost, extreme weather, and the cost of health care. They want research on soil health and biology, soil fertility, weed management, pest and disease management, economics of organic farming, and nutritional characteristics of organic food.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), University of Minnesota (U of M), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cooperate to offer a wide array of support to organic farmers, including information, education, networking, research, conservation assistance, financial support, and crop insurance.

Research recommendations include continued support for long and short term cropping system research, applied research efforts that address current and emerging organic producer and handler priorities (including soil, weed, insect pest, genetically modified organism (GMO) drift, food safety, nutrition, along with topics related to the economics and sociology of organic transition and production), and ensuring that investigators at the U of M and elsewhere are aware of legislatively-funded research opportunities administered by the MDA.

Introduction

The MDA prepared this report for the Minnesota Legislature to meet its statutory obligation to report available data on organic acreage and production, available data on the sales or market performance of organic products, and recommendations regarding programs, policies, and research efforts that will benefit Minnesota's organic agriculture sector (MINN. STAT. 31.94 subd. 5(b)). This is the seventh Status of Organic Agriculture in Minnesota report since 2001.

Selected USDA organic farming requirements

- Managing pests and weeds rely on prevention strategies – i.e., crop rotations, resistant varieties, beneficial insects, mulching, etc.
- Using biologically-based weed and pest control (synthetic commercial herbicides, insecticides and fungicides are prohibited – with few exceptions)
- Prohibit the use of GMO seed or other GMO materials
- Prioritizing soil health through crop rotations, cover cropping, compost, animal manure, and mined minerals, given synthetic fertilizers are prohibited
- Providing animals with clean, comfortable living conditions and access to the outdoors
- Maintaining production, input, harvest, storage, and sales records that demonstrate compliance with organic standards
- Undergoing monitoring by an approved third-party agency, including annual and unannounced farm inspections

Source: USDA Organic Regulations

Background

"Organic" is a labeling claim that describes how an agricultural product was grown and handled before it reached the consumer. The term organic was defined by Congress in the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. After 10 years of rulemaking and two public comment periods, the National Organic Program (NOP) Final Rule was published in the Federal Register on December 21, 2000, and went into effect on October 21, 2002.

The Final Rule established uniform national organic standards for the production and handling of organic food and established the NOP as regulatory authority. The NOP is responsible for oversight and enforcement of national organic standards, accreditation of certifying agencies, and facilitation of domestic and international marketing of organic products. The NOP is housed within the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) at the USDA. The Minnesota Legislature adopted the national organic standards by reference in 2003.

In January of 2023, NOP published the Strengthening of Organic Enforcement Rule. Organic operations and certifiers were required to be in full compliance within a 14-month period by March 2024. This is the largest update to the rules since originally published. The purpose of this rule is to uphold integrity throughout the organic industry and build consumer trust in the organic label. It increases oversight of supply chains, clarifies international trade practices, tightens recordkeeping requirements for producers and handlers, and increases enforcement of NOP regulations.

While some of organic's value is intrinsic, some depends on transparency and consumer confidence in the certification process. At the farm level, organic agriculture is a management-intensive system of farming that relies on biology, timing, and ecological cycling to create vigorous crops and livestock, and to manage insect pests, weeds, and disease. Organic also is third-party verified. A USDA-approved organization called a certifying agency reviews farm records and conducts on-farm inspections at least once a year.

Figure 1. Examples of logos for four accredited certifying agents active in Minnesota

For a product to retain its organic status, any additional processing (or "handling," as USDA calls it) must also be done under certified organic conditions. All ingredients, processing aids, pest management in the facility, and labeling must follow the National Organic Standards. There also must be no opportunity for organic products to mix, or commingle, with similar non-organic products or come into contact with unapproved substances. Inspections for organic handlers are required at least once a year.

Primary data sources

There are several data sources that report organic information on state, national, and international levels, but they vary in accuracy, completeness, and timeliness. In this report, we draw upon the following:

- Minnesota Organic Farmer Survey: The MDA surveys Minnesota organic farmers in the state every few years, focusing on opinions and experiences.
- The NOP: The program collects and publishes information provided by accredited certifying agencies in a database called the *Organic INTEGRITY Database*. In 2024, the Strengthening of Organic Enforcement Rule was implemented, which requires certifiers to generate certificates using this database. This change keeps this database up to date, making it the most reliable source of organic operation numbers.
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS): NASS conducted its first organic farmer survey in 2008 and consistently reports acreage and production data While responding is legally mandatory, in practice there is wide variability in the number of farmers who respond.
- FINBIN: The Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM) located at the U of M is a publicly available database that contains detailed, privacy-protected production and financial information from farms in Minnesota and 10 other states. Users can customize detailed reports on whole farm performance as well as individual crop and livestock enterprises.
- Argus Media: Argus Media is an independent provider of market intelligence, including pricing.

Organic Farm and Market Trends

Organic adoption and production

The number of organic operations (farms plus handlers) has declined over the past five years, from 967 in 2020 to 840 in 2024. Nationally, there was an 11% drop in organic acres between 2019 and 2021 (NASS 2021 Organic Survey Highlights (PDF). The next NASS Organic Survey for 2025 will be mailed to producers in December of 2025; it will be interesting to see if this trend continues. There was an increase in organic handlers, which appears in line with the implementation of USDA's Strengthening Organic Enforcement Rule. This rule requires non-processing handlers, brokers, traders, importers, and exporters who were previously exempt to become certified. One of its goals is to increase traceability and reduce fraud.

Table 1. Certified organic operations in Minnesota, 2021-2024

*Some operations are certified both as farm and handler

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Handlers	229	226	221	243
Farms	707	670	639	616
Total Operations*	926	879	846	840

Source: National Organic Program

Figures 2 and 3 show the distribution and concentration of certified organic farms and handlers in Minnesota. Geographically, organic farms typically mirror their non-organic counterparts. While most types of organic operations are found across the state, there are many organic dairies in the "dairy belt" of Stearns and neighboring counties, as well as Southeast Minnesota. In the Red River Valley, there are large organic farms that specialize in grains and oilseeds. Near the Twin Cities and other metropolitan areas where land prices are typically high, there tend to be more vegetable operations. Data sets for Figures 2 and 3 are in Appendix (D).

Figure 2. Distribution and concentration of certified organic handlers, 2024

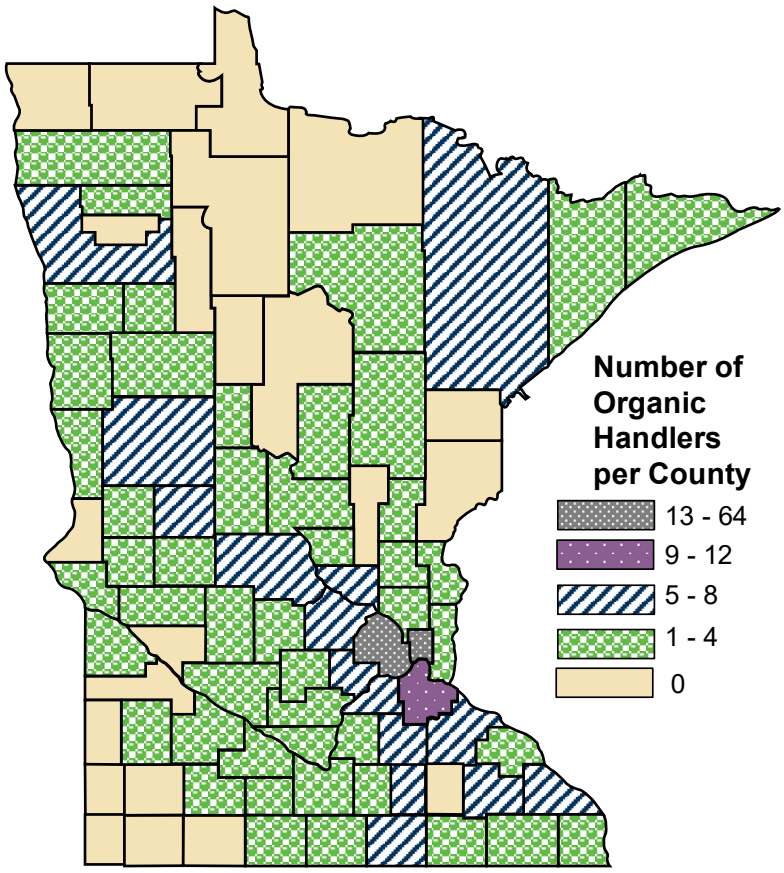
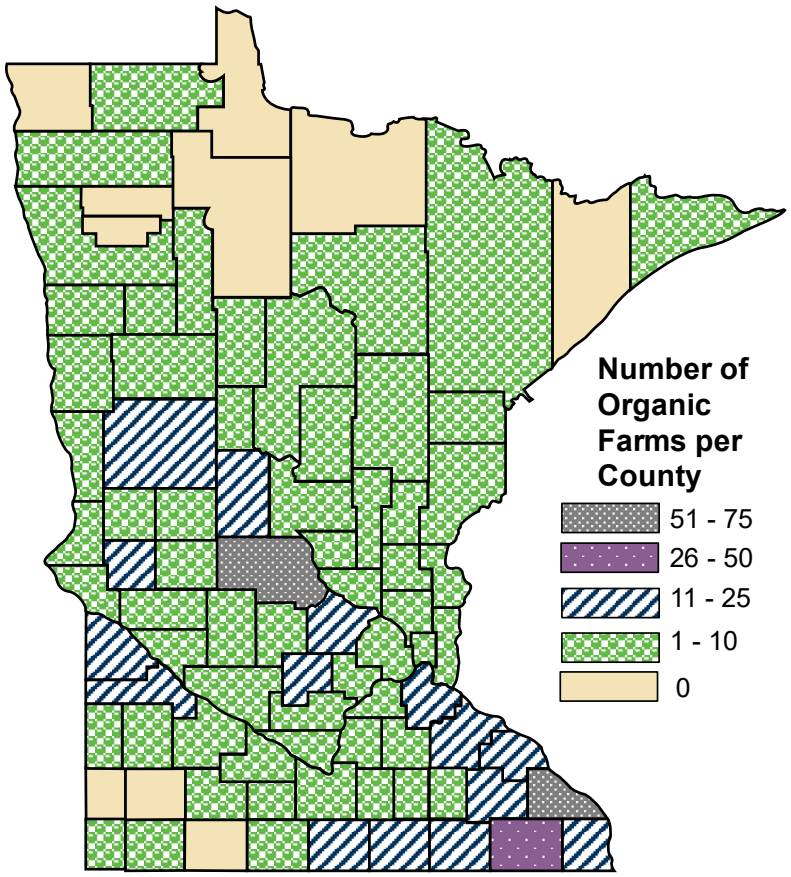


Figure 3. Distribution and concentration of certified organic farms, 2024



Here we report on acreage, production, and ranking data from the 2021 NASS Organic Survey, which was self-reported by participating farmers. While there are some omissions and inconsistencies, they are the most comprehensive acreage, production, and farm sales estimates available at present.

Minnesota remains a Top 10 producer of a wide array of organic crops and livestock (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2. Minnesota organic acres, sales, and rankings for selected organic crops, 2021

Crop	Acres harvested	Acre rank	Sales ($)	Sales rank
Apples	85	8	550,436	8
Barley	2,038	5	505,807	8
Beans	6,289	2	6,394,527	2
Buckwheat	105	5	24,149	7
Corn (grain)	31,041	3	29,223,490	5

Crop	Acres harvested	Acre rank	Sales ($)	Sales rank
Corn (silage)	5,588	5	1,132,981	6
Hay (alfalfa & alfalfa mixtures)	20,197	6	6,848,955	8
Haylage	10,322	8	1,244,353	11
Haylage	10,322	8	1,244,353	11
Oats	5,666	2	1,821,721	3
Rye	1,921	3	967,168	2
Soybeans	21,813	3	17,110,665	5
Wheat	593	25	333,941	24
All vegetables, potatoes, & melons (field grown)	4,598	8	10,840,692	16

Source: NASS Certified Organic Survey 2021 Summary (PDF)

Table 3. Minnesota head, sales, and rankings for selected organic livestock, 2021

Livestock	Head	Rank	Sales ($)	Sales rank
Beef cows	928	9	258,738	6
Broiler chickens	32,750	13	36,800	17
Goats and kids	786	3	20,012	6
Hogs and pigs	1,318	5	240,909	6
Milk cows	10,878	13	2,711,990	10
Turkeys	260,500	3	7,029,650	3

Source: NASS Certified Organic Survey 2021 Summary (PDF)

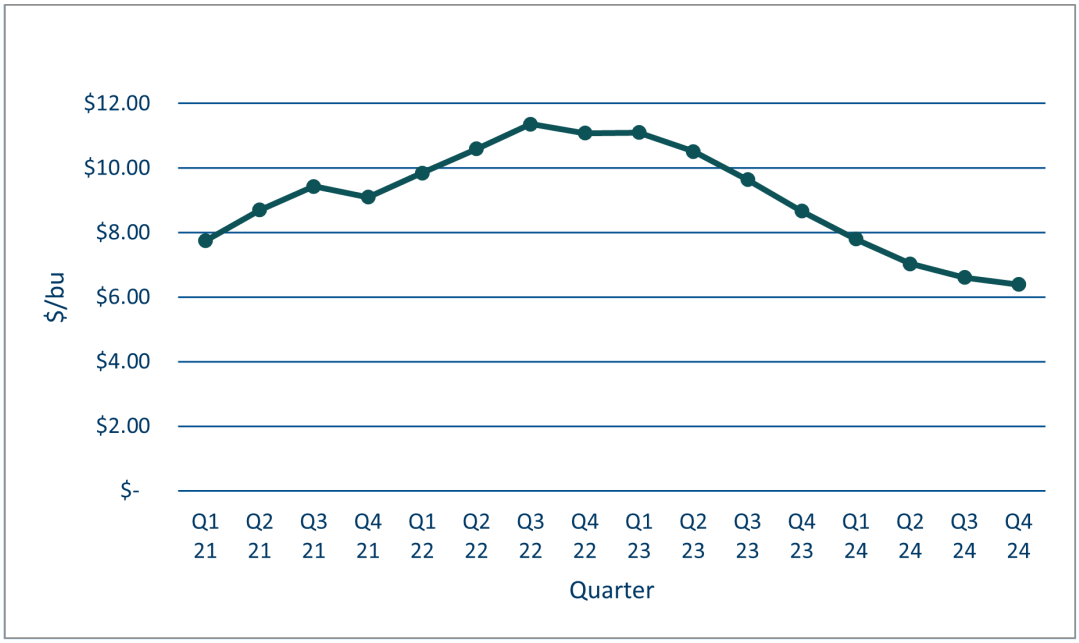
Organic prices

Organic price data is available; however, it is less comprehensive and transparent than conventional commodity pricing. The USDA AMS publishes some organic price data through specialty crop, dairy, and grain reports, but often coverage is limited to certain regions, markets, or points in the supply chain. The pricing is fragmented because volumes are smaller, contracts are more often private, and markets are often local. Figures 4 through 6 show average quarterly prices for corn, soybeans, and wheat. In the last Status of Organic Report, the MDA reported prices for organic barley and oats; unfortunately, AMS published only one price for barley in July of 2021 (which was $6.45/bushel), and no pricing for oats.

Figure 7 shows the average price per hundredweight reported by Minnesota organic farmers who participated in farm business management education programs and provided their farm data for inclusion in the FINBIN database. The Center for Farm Financial Management, which manages the database, ensures that privacy is protected and that no individual farm can be identified. In the past five years, the premium for organic milk has been as little as $5.92 and as great as $12.32 per hundredweight.

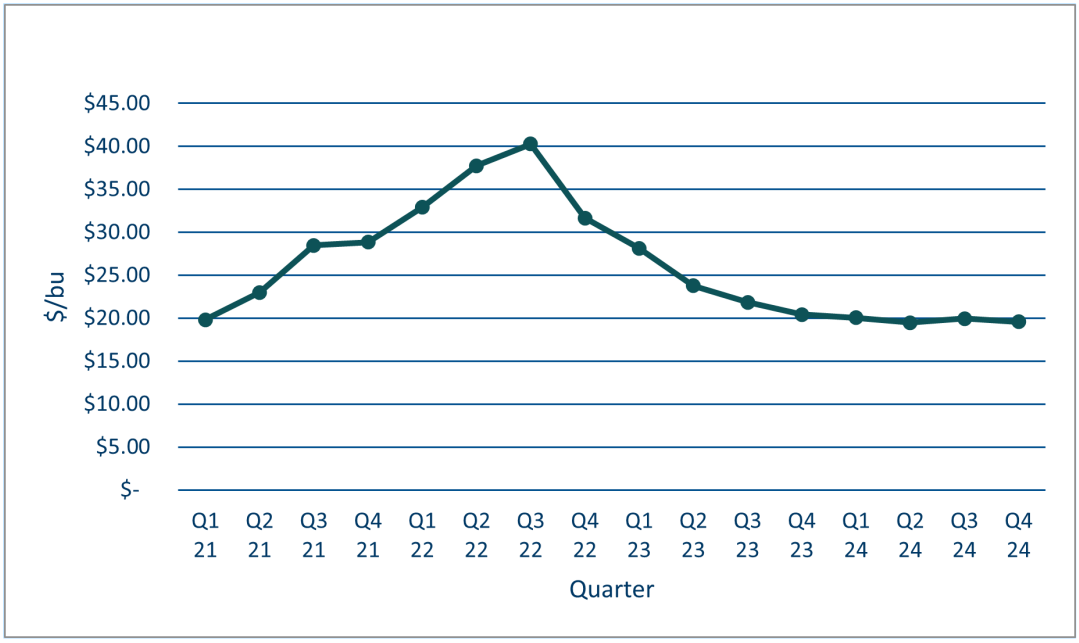
Data sets for Figures 4 to 7 are in Appendix (D).

Figure 4. Organic feed grade corn prices from 2021-2024



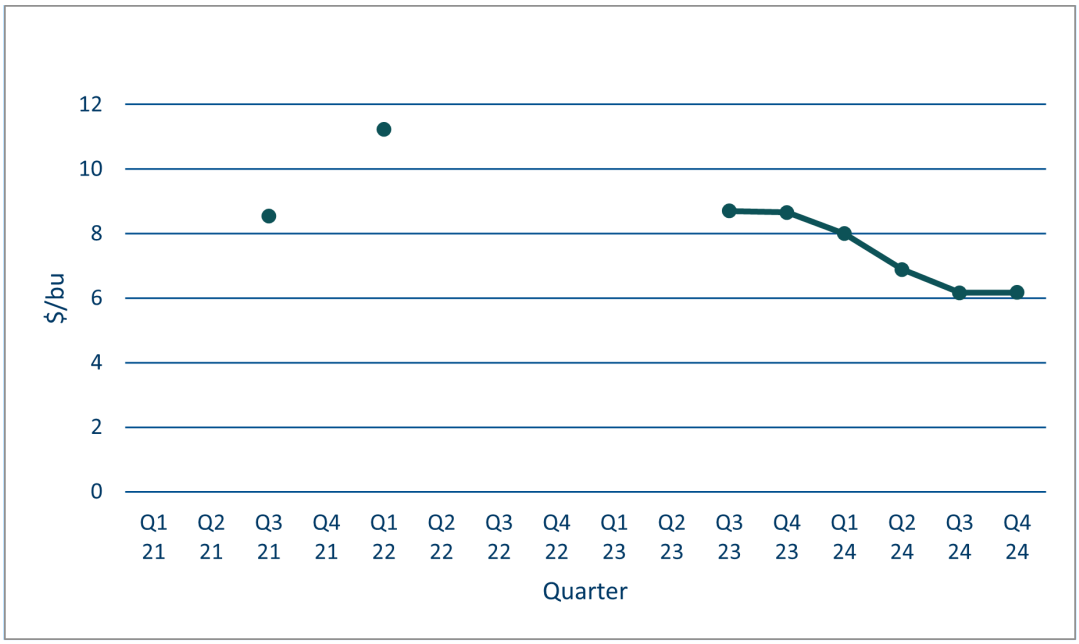
Source: Argus, 2025

Figure 5.Organic feed grade soybean prices from 2021-2024



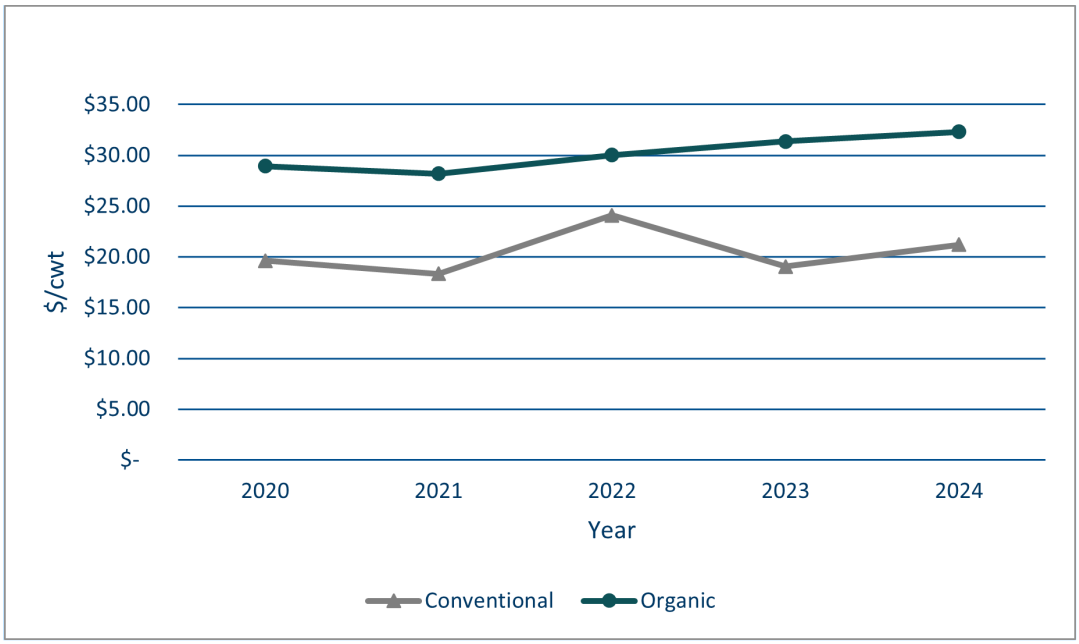
Source: Argus, 2025

Figure 6. Organic wheat prices from 2021-2024



Source: AMS, 2025

Figure 7. Organic and conventional milk prices in Minnesota from 2020-2024



Source: FINBIN, 2025

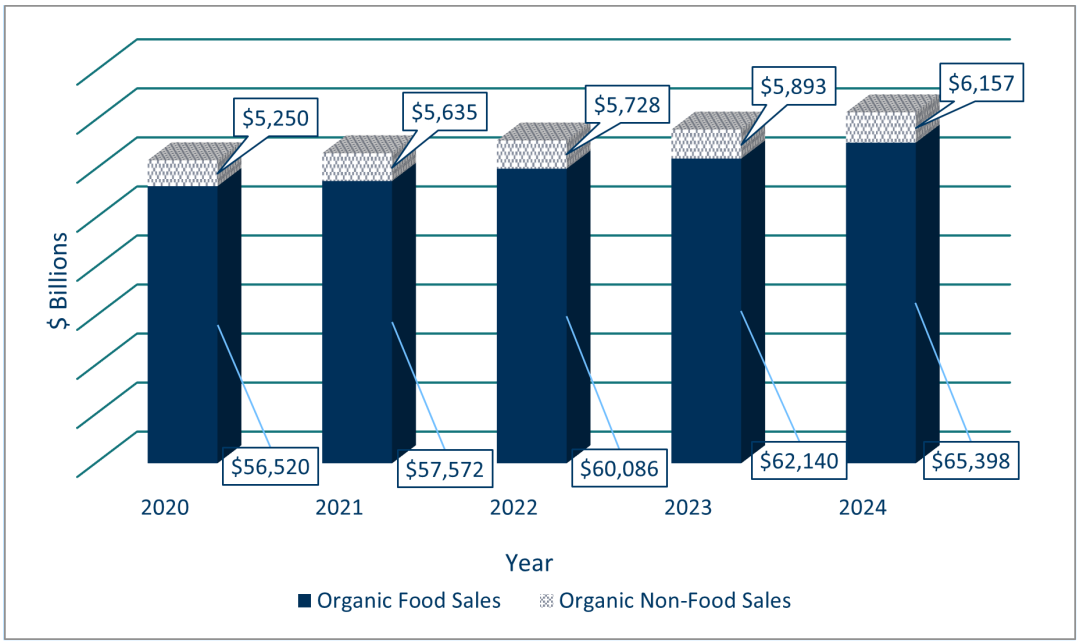
Market Demand

The United States is a dominant player in a growing global organic market. As of 2025, the U.S. organic market was the largest in the world ($69.2 billion), followed by Germany ($18.9 billion), and China ($14.8 billion). The highest per capita consumption rates, however, do not belong to these “big three,” but to Switzerland, Denmark, and Austria (Willer, et.al, 2025).

Organic export and import data are somewhat problematic and incomplete. Beginning in 2011, classification codes were established to allow tracking for a limited set of organic products (mostly fruits and vegetables, as well as coffee). Consequently, import/export data reported by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) paints an incomplete picture of U.S. organic trade, particularly for states like Minnesota. Because our major organic production (grains, beans, oilseeds) is currently not coded, it is not represented in the import/export figures. The FAS data shows an imbalance for each of the last five years. For example, imports topped exports at $3.4 billion in 2024 with exports at $463 million (FAS, 2025).

Consumer research organizations like the Organic Trade Association (OTA), track and characterize organic consumer sales. Data published by OTA show that the U.S. organic market grew to $71.6 billion in 2024 (Figure 8, data set in Appendix (D)).

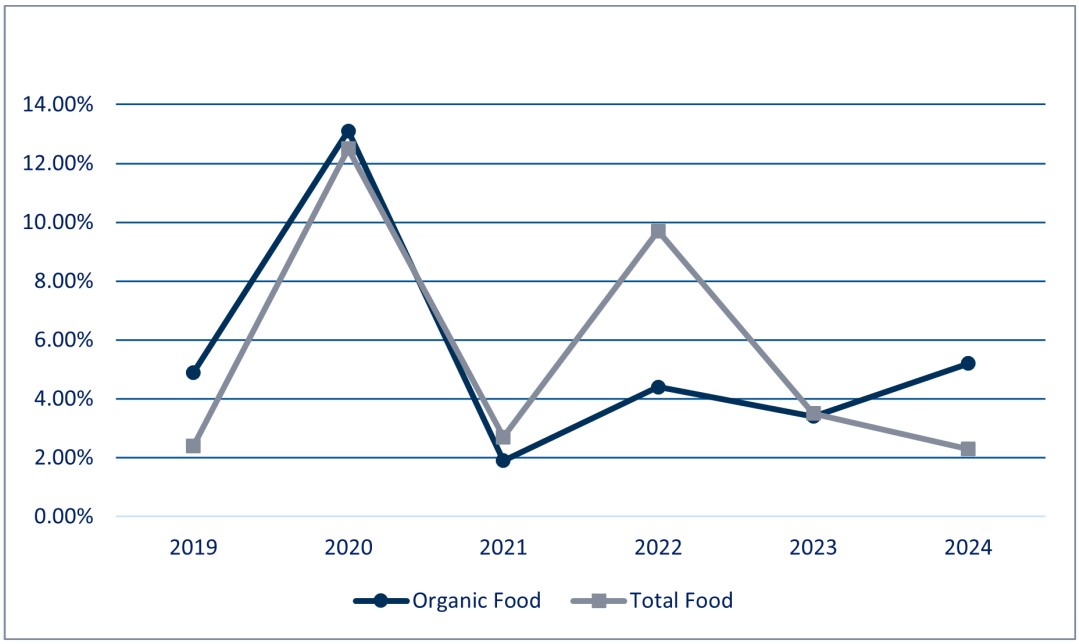
Figure 8. U.S. organic sales from 2020-2024



Source: OTA, 2025

Organic food and beverage sales continue to account for the majority (91%) of the U.S. organic market. In 2024, organic food sales had 5.2% growth for the year, while the non-food organic sector grew by a similar rate of 4.5% (Figure 9, data set in Appendix (D)).

Figure 9. U.S. organic food growth vs. total food growth from 2019-2024



Source: OTA, 2025

The highest growth rates for both organic and total food sales occurred in 2020, at 13.1% and 12.5% respectively: likely driven by pandemic-related shifts in consumer behavior. In 2022, organic food sales grew at a slower pace than the overall market. By 2023, growth rates were roughly aligned. In 2024, however, organic is outpacing the total market, growing at more than twice the rate. This positive trajectory suggests continued momentum, with projections indicating that annual organic food sales could reach $86 billion by 2029. Produce is still far and away the bestselling organic food category, with 2024 sales at $21.5 billion. Organic meat, poultry and fish, the smallest food category saw 16.1% growth in 2024, representing the highest growth of any organic food category. Organic poultry made up $1.3 billion of the $2.4 billion sales of that category (OTA, 2025).

Organic Consumer Insights

OTA reports that consumer trust in the USDA Organic label remains strong and is associated with perceived nutritional benefits and the avoidance of chemicals. In 2024, more than 80% of households bought organic products (Letis, 2024). According to OTA and Acosta, a marketing agency, the key driver for growth is the prioritization of health for humans and animals.

The increased availability of organic products has led to purchases across all segments of the U.S. population. However, current data on ethnic preferences for organic purchases remains limited. For example, in 2022, 19% of consumers always buy organic avocados, while 17% consistently purchase organic carrots (The Packer, 2023 and 2024). A higher percentage of Asians (37%), Hispanics (33%), and Black/African Americans (33%) reported always buying organic avocados compared to Caucasians (24%). A similar pattern was observed for organic carrot purchases, with Asians (31%), Black/African Americans (27%), and Hispanics (21%) buying organic more frequently than Caucasians (15%). In addition, OTA reports that consumers who identify as Asian (69%), and Black/African American (49%) are more willing to pay for organic than consumers who identify as Caucasian (40%).

Consumers cite several reasons for choosing organic produce, including nutrient content and personal health, food safety and chemical avoidance, and environmental and/or social responsibility (The Packer, 2024). OTA highlights the growing importance of organic products among Millennials and Generation Z, particularly as they start families. This is reflected in the rising demand for organic baby formula and organic food, as well as household staples like organic produce and dairy.

OTA reports that Millennials and Generation Z with annual incomes above $100K are core buyers. Generation Z with medium to low incomes (<$75K) also prioritize organic. Therefore nearly 90% of this demographic is a committed or aspirational organic consumer. A study conducted by YouGov for Whole Foods Market supports this trend, finding that Generation Z places a strong emphasis on sustainability and food quality – along with a willingness to pay more to support brands that align with these values.

There continues to be confusion on what the organic label means, with 61% of non-organic consumers unsure of the attributes. Between 13% and 24% percent are willing to pay more for claims inherent in organic certification, like Free-Range, No Added Hormones, Natural and Humanly Raised, and Raised Without Antibiotics (OTA, 2025).

Even with some confusion the USDA Organic label is the most recognized (60%) and trusted (74%) label for U.S. consumers with the American Heart Association Heart-Check Mark and Non-GMO Project Verified close behind (72%). When asked to report familiarity of claims, “Local,” “Organic,” and “Natural” were most understood, while “Regenerative” and “Fair Trade” were the least understood. Even though “Regenerative” has been around since 2017, the claim has low levels of familiarly and importance with consumers, which correlates with a lower willingness to pay a premium for those products (OTA, 2025).

Minnesota Organic Farmer Experiences

The MDA pays close attention to the experience, ideas, and needs of organic farmers by regularly surveying them and listening to feedback from the Organic Advisory Task Force (OATF), which includes representatives from the organic farm, processing, retail, and consumer sectors, as mandated in law (MINN. STAT. 31.94). The MDA surveyed organic farmers in the state in 2025. The results provide a snapshot of organic farm and farmer characteristics, motivations, challenges, interests, and experiences. Surveys were mailed to our list of organic farmers and included a postage paid return envelope to encourage participation. Respondents had the choice to fill out the paper survey or scan a QR-code that directed them to an online survey. The total response rate was greater than 39%; out of that, 92% preferred filling out the survey on paper.

While we focus on the most recent results in this report, we do include some of the data from the 2020 survey when the comparisons seem interesting.

Many organic farms are diversified, but we asked respondents to identify their primary organic enterprise and analyzed the data accordingly. Crop farmers returned the greatest number of surveys (170 in 2020, 161 in 2025) followed by dairy (52/45). In 2020, there were eight fruit and 21 vegetable growers, whereas in 2025 eight and 24 respectively. There also is a category for “other livestock.” We are not reporting results from that category here given production is so varied (it can include beef, poultry, sheep, and goats), and because many organic meat producers choose not to certify their livestock.

In general, organic farmers are slightly younger than their conventional counterparts. The average age of survey respondents increased slightly from 52 years in 2020 to 53 years in 2025. (In the 2022 Census of Agriculture, NASS reported the average age of principal farm operators in Minnesota at 57.6 years). Our surveys show the average age of organic vegetable producers as youngest, but it seems that may change in the future because of the younger average age range across all types of farmers (Table 4).

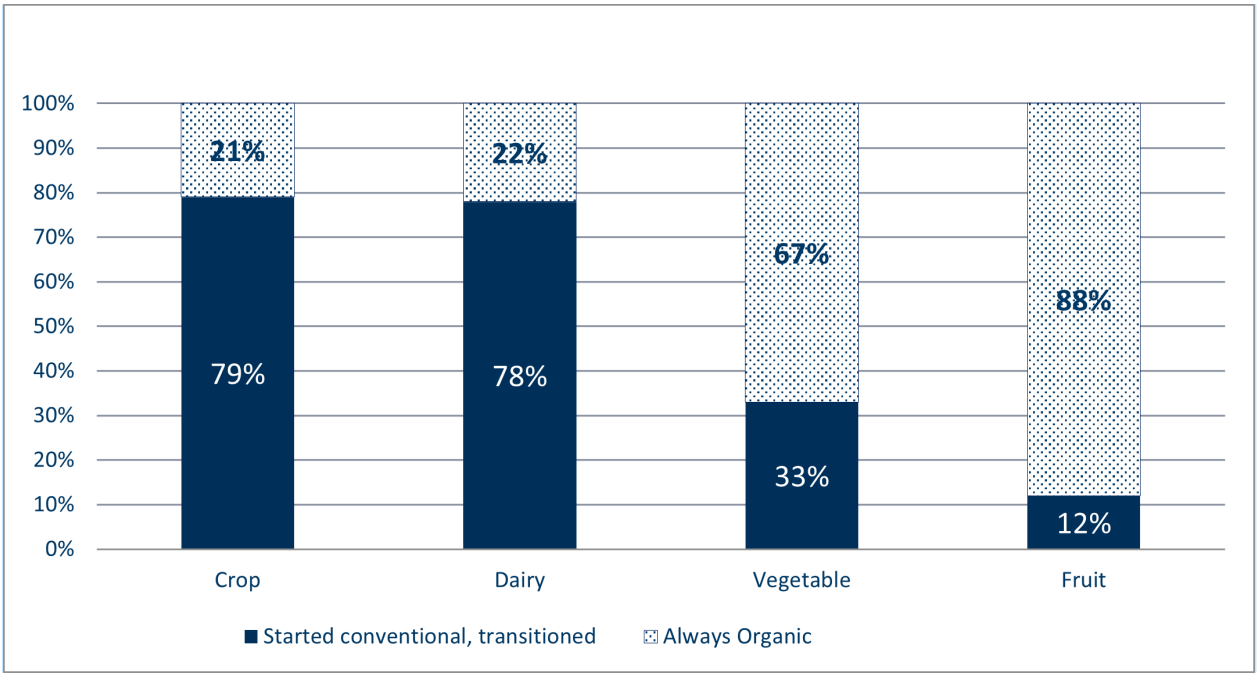
Table 4. Age of Minnesota organic farmers as of Dec. 31, 2024, by principal type of production

Type of Production	Crop	Dairy	Vegetable	Fruit	ALL
Average age	54	53	51	52	53
Average range	22-88	22-81	22-81	22-88	22-88

Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

How these farmers entered organic farming differs by farm type. Most Minnesota crop and dairy farmers started their careers as conventional producers, while most fruit and vegetable farmers were organic from the outset (Figure 10).

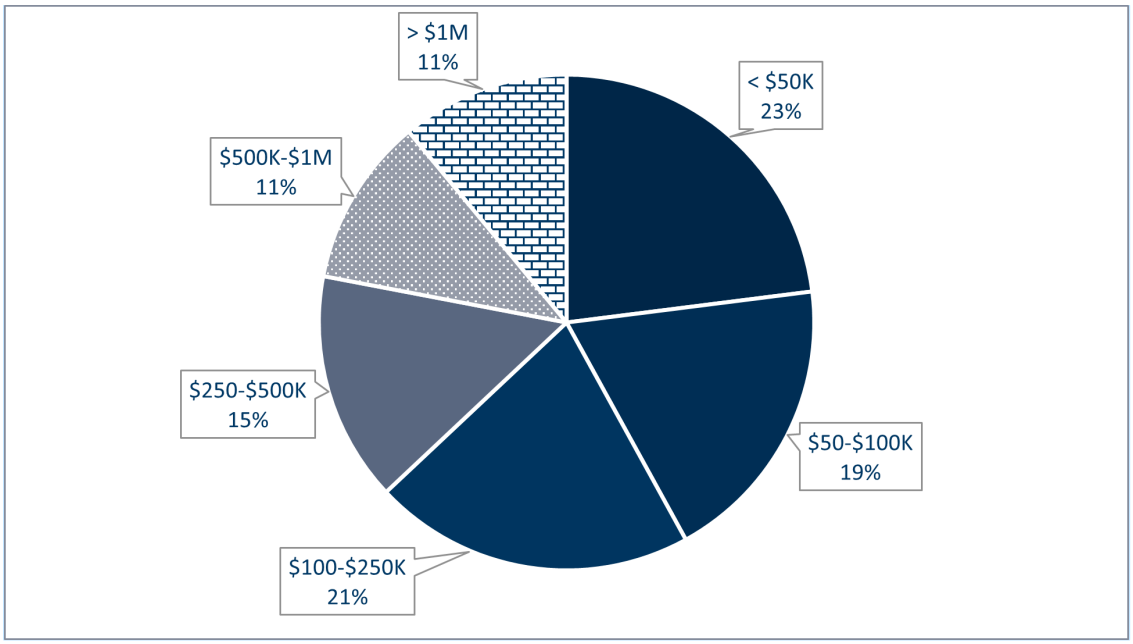
Figure 10. How farmers enter organic farming, by type



Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

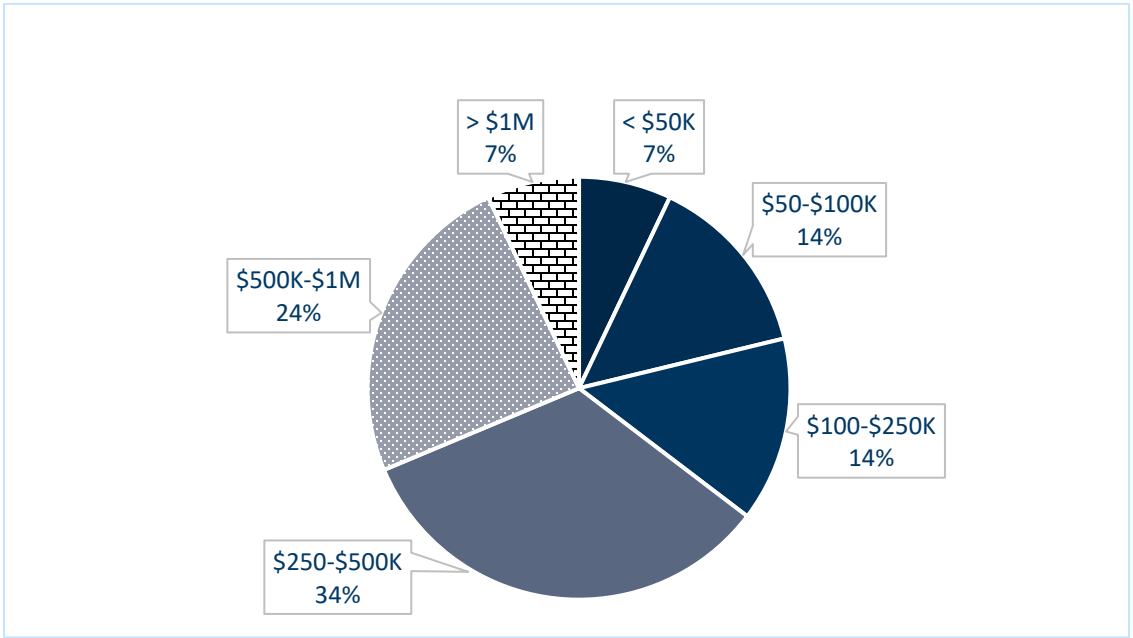
Operation size varied by type as well. Fruit and vegetable farms tended to be smaller than crop and dairy farms in terms of gross farm revenue, with most operations reporting gross revenue under $100,000. The revenue distribution for crop operations was more widely distributed; dairy operations had the highest reported revenue (Figures 11-14).

Figure 11. 2024 annual gross income, cropping



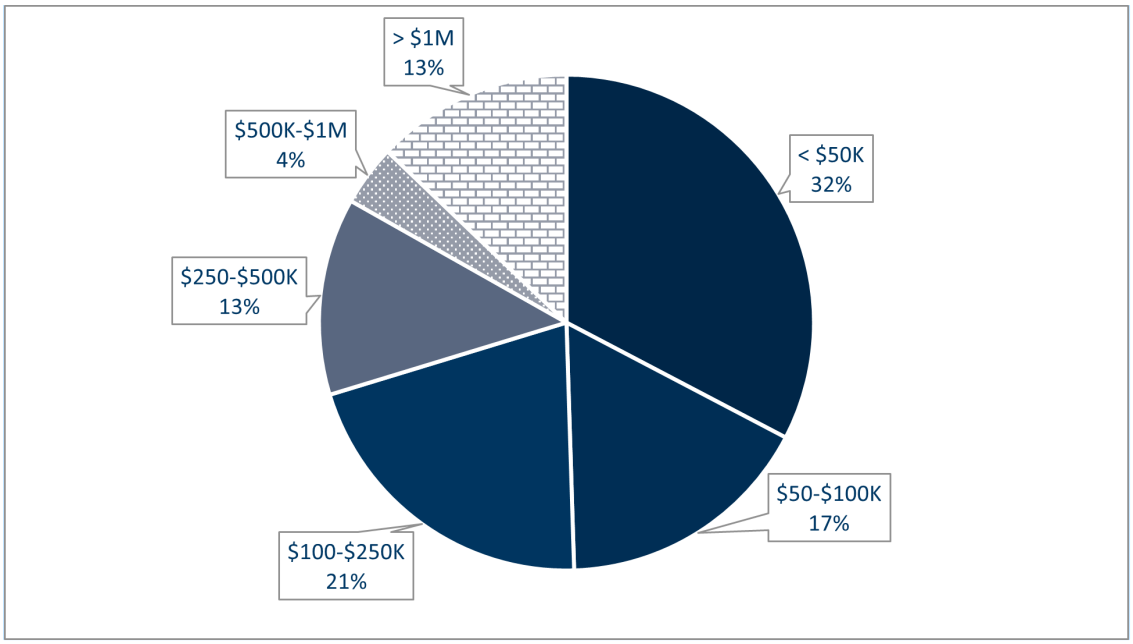
Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Figure 12. 2024 annual gross income dairy



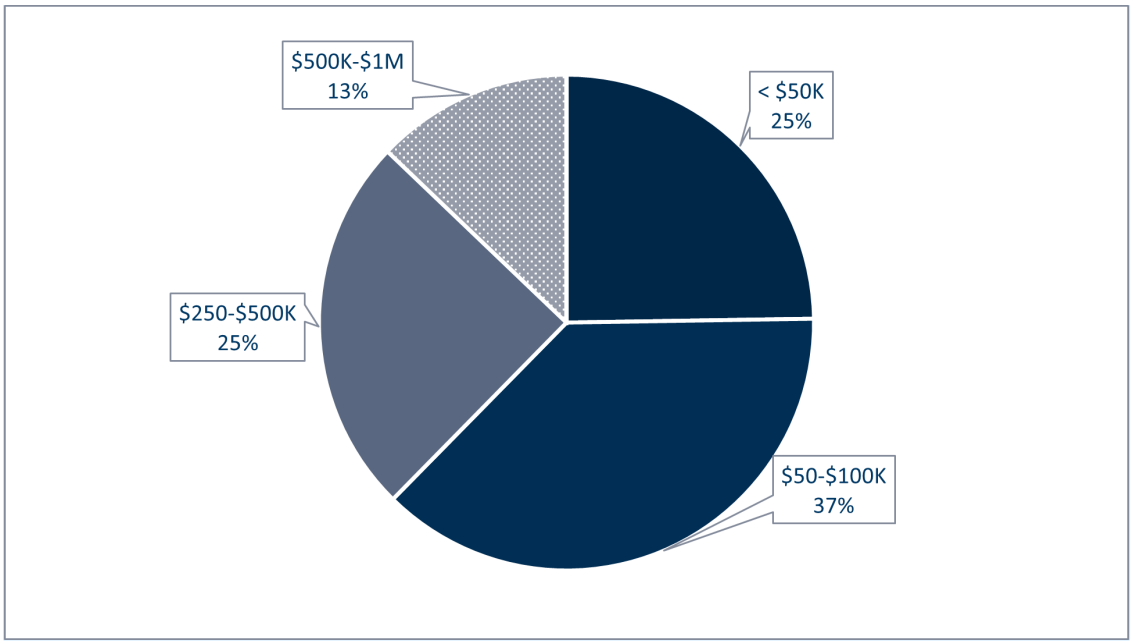
Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Figure 13. 2024 annual gross income, vegetable operations



Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

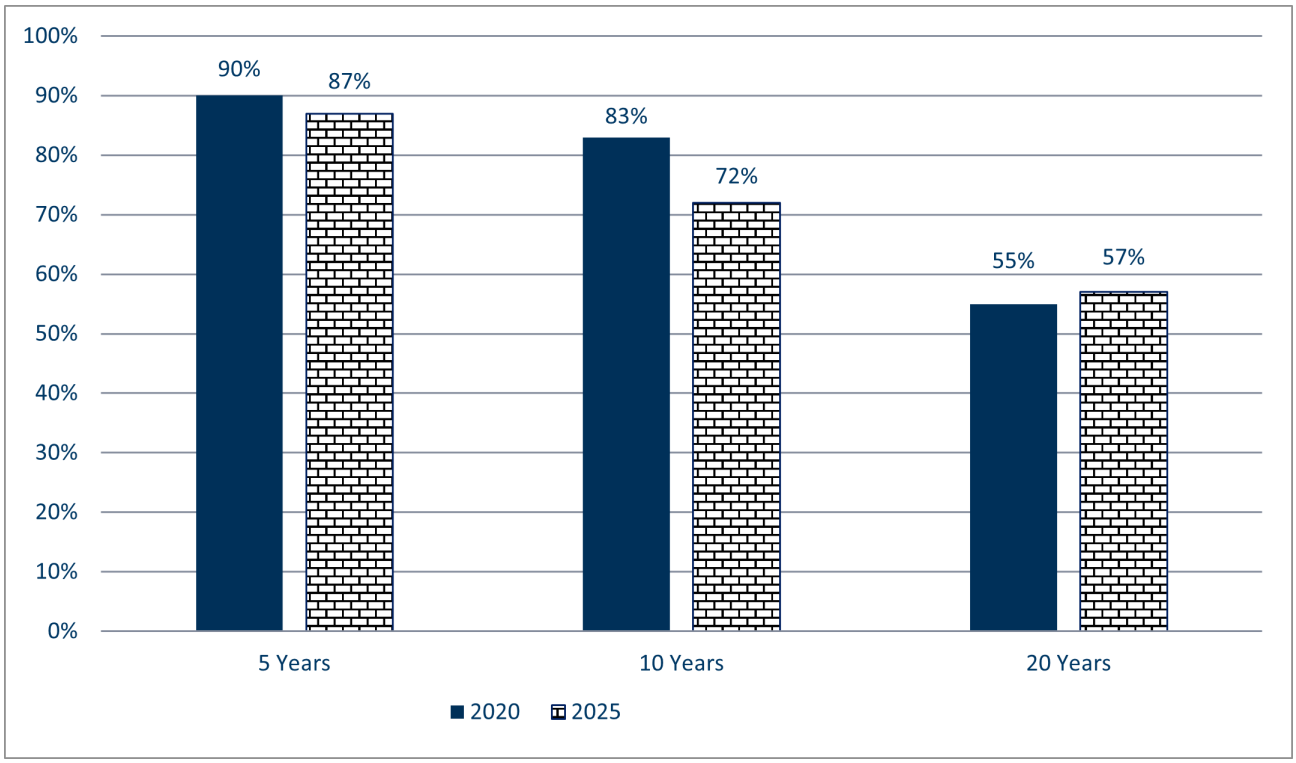
Figure 14. 2024 annual gross income, fruit operations



Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Organic farmers are fairly optimistic about the future of their farms. Even after the uncertainties created by COVID-19, more than half said they believe their farm will still be in operation 20 years into the future (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Believes self or family member will be farming in the future

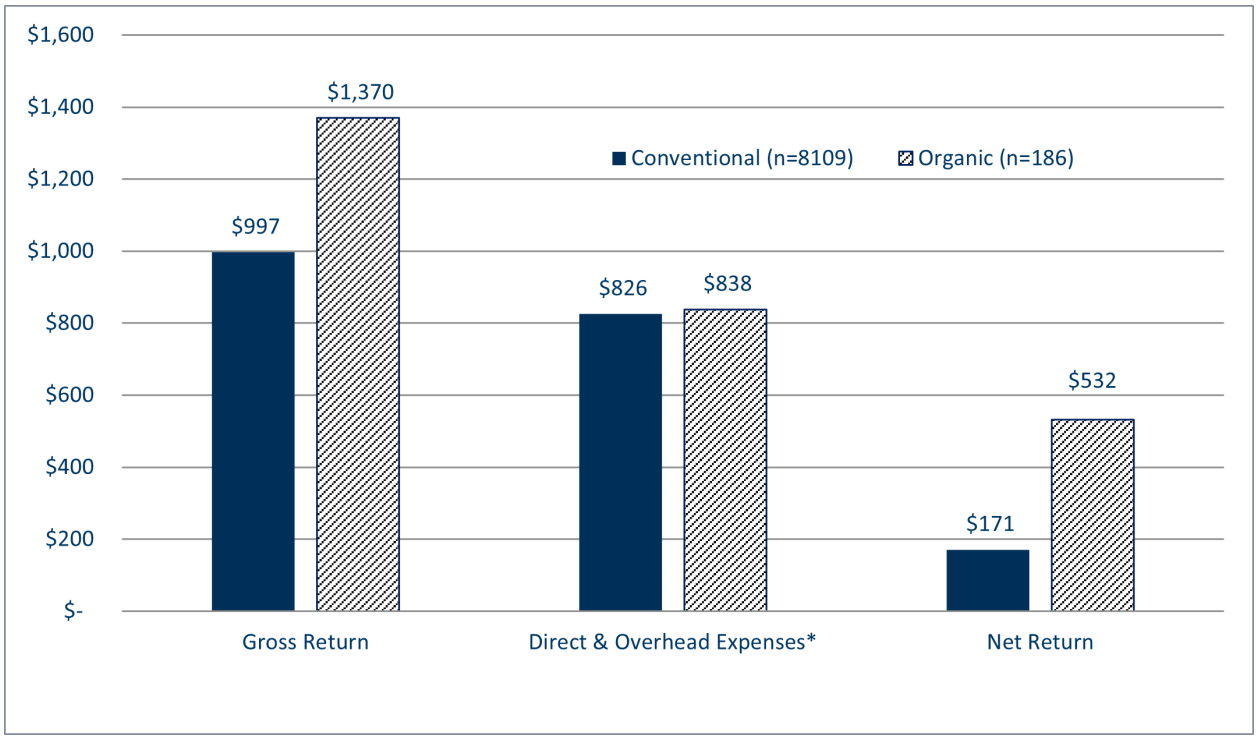


Source: 2020 and 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Of survey respondents in 2025, 52% said they thought organic production costs were higher than conventional, and an almost equal amount (53%) said they thought organic farming was more profitable. It's interesting to compare these opinions with actual organic farm data in the FINBIN database. Figures 18 and 19 show expenses and returns for conventional and organic corn and dairy farmers who reported their data (averaged over the five years between 2020 and 2025). The cost of production for corn on organic crop farms was marginally higher, although it was lower on organic dairies. Production on organic farms was lower: 145 bushels of corn/acre on organic farms compared to 192 bushels on conventional farms, and 15,207 pounds of milk/cow on organic farms compared to 25,607 pounds milk/cow on conventional dairies. At that time, however, average prices received were $3.92 higher per bushel of organic corn and $9.86 higher per hundredweight of milk, so net returns for the organic enterprises were higher. The five-year average prices for corn that Minnesota farmers realized between 2020 and 2025 was $8.90/bushels for organic and $4.98/bushels for conventional, according to FINBIN data. For dairy, prices received were $30.34/hundredweight for organic milk compared to $20.48/hundredweight for conventional.

Figure 16. Average conventional and organic corn expenses and returns per acre, 2020-2024

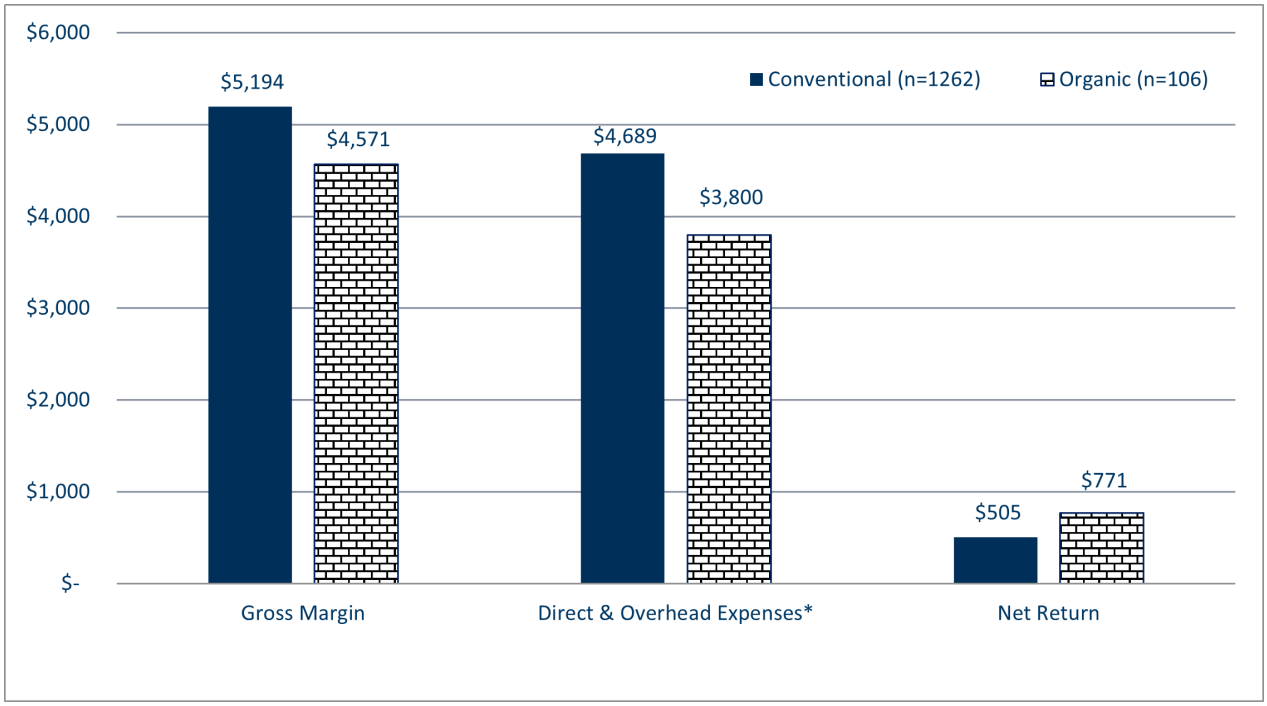
***** excludes labor/management charge and government payments



Source: FINBIN, 2025

Figure 17. Minnesota average conventional and organic dairy returns and expenses per cow, 2020-2024

***** excludes labor/management charge and government payments



Source: FINBIN, 2025

In both 2020 and 2025, greater than half of farmers said that premium prices were a major factor in their decision to farm organic. Their responses showed that other factors, such as health/safety, environment/conservation, philosophy/ethics, and personal satisfaction ("I enjoy farming this way") were even more important to them (Table 5).

Table 5. Reason for farming organic

Reason	2020	2025
Premiums	73%	67%
Production Costs	54%	49%
Health/Safety	82%	76%
Think Organic Food Healthier or Higher Quality	76%	73%
Environment/Conservation	75%	70%
Personal Satisfaction	78%	73%
Philosophy/Ethics	64%	55%

Source: 2020 & 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Organic farming has a reputation for being labor intensive. Table 6 shows the average number of full and part time employees by type of operation. Crop farms use the least amount of labor. Dairy and vegetable farmers tended to employ more full-time employees, with vegetable farmers employed nearly an equal amount of part-time help. Fruit operations used the most part-time help.

Table 6. Organic farm labor use, 2024 (average number of people who work on the farm, including self, family, hired)

Type of labor	Crop	Dairy	Vegetable	Fruit	ALL
Full-time	1.4	2.6	3.3	1.6	1.9
Part-time	1.9	1.5	3.1	3.3	1.9

Source: 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Our surveys also asked farmers about production challenges they face. Table 7 shows the five biggest production challenges each type of farmer reported in both 2020 and 2025. Some topics, like competition from imports for crop producers and labor availability/cost for fruit and vegetable producers, remained consistent over time. Many, including extreme weather and cost of health insurance were common to more than one type of farm.

Table 7. Respondents' top five production challenges (unordered)

Production Challenge	2020 Crop Farmers	2025 Crop Farmers	2020 Dairy Farmers	2025 Dairy Farmers	2020 Vegetable Farmers	2025 Vegetable Farmers	2020 Fruit Farmers	2025 Fruit Farmers
Weed control		x				x	x	
Extreme weather	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Labor availability					x	x	x	x
Labor cost					x	x	x	x
Land cost (purchase price or rental rates)	x	x	x	x				x
Cost of health insurance	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Cost of certification								x
Competition from organic imports	x	x	x	x	x			
Public confusion about what "organic" means or competition from labels like "natural"	x	x	x	x		x		x

Source: 2020 & 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Our survey also asked farmers what research topic are most important to organic agriculture in Minnesota (not just their own operations). Table 8 provides more detail and shows the Top 5 research topics they rated "very important" in both 2020 and 2025. Soil fertility and soil health were very important to every type of producer.

Table 8. Respondents' five "most important" research topics for Minnesota organic agriculture (unordered)

Research Topic	2020 Crop Farmers	2025 Crop Farmers	2020 Dairy Farmers	2025 Dairy Farmers	2020 Vegetable Farmers	2025 Vegetable Farmers	2020 Fruit Farmers	2025 Fruit Farmers
Economics		x	x		x		x	x
Insect pests & pests management						x	x	x
Livestock health			x	x				
Milk Quality			x	x				
Organic food nutrition studies	x				x			
Plant diseases						x	x	x
Soil fertility	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Soil health/ biology	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Weed management	x	x		x	x	x		
Yields/ production	x	x						

Source: 2020 & 2025 MN Organic Farmer Survey

Current State and Federal Programs Directed Toward Organic Agriculture

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The MDA has provided dedicated support to organic and prospective organic farmers and handlers since the 1980s.

Recent and ongoing offerings and activities include the following (items with an * are not exclusive to organic, but available to and used by organic operations):

- Minnesota Organic Conference (annual)
- Organic Certification Cost-Share
- Transition to Organic Cost-Share
- List of USDA-Accredited Certifiers that serve Minnesota
- Driftwatch™ sensitive crops registry*
- Organic Farm Please Do Not Spray signs
- Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants*
- Value Added Grants*
- Livestock Investment Grants*
- Food Business Development – Make it Minnesota*

Here are some highlights of several of these programs.

Minnesota Organic Conference

Since 2003, MDA staff have coordinated a two-day Minnesota Organic Conference that occurs each January in St. Cloud. The conference is farmer-focused and includes topics for prospective, beginning, intermediate, and seasoned organic producers. An 80-vendor trade show compliments an educational program with two keynote speakers and 35 breakout sessions. A list of breakout topics the conference has offered since 2021, is provided in Appendix B. Due to COVID-19, the event pivoted to a virtual platform in 2021 and 2022. Attendance grew from about 200 attendees in 2003 to 438 in 2025, and the 80-booth trade show typically sells out. We require the conference caterer to source organic and Minnesota-grown ingredients, and we tap local, regional, and nationally known presenters, including farmers, university and extension personnel, nonprofit leaders, and experts from private industry.

Organic Certification Cost-Share Program (OCCSP)

In 2000, Minnesota pioneered a program to refund farmers a portion of the cost to obtain organic certification. The idea was subsequently implemented at the federal level. With one exception in 2013-14, the OCCSP has been funded through the Federal Farm Bill since 2002.

The program provides relief from the cost of certification required by USDA. Certified organic farmers and handlers in 2021 and 2022 were eligible for reimbursement of 50% of certification costs, with a cap of $500 per certificate. In 2023 and 2024, the reimbursement rate increased to 75% of certification costs, with a cap of $750 per certificate. This means that a farm certified to produce crops, or a handler certified to process organic products can receive a maximum reimbursement of $750 each year. A farm certified for both crops and livestock

can receive up to $1,500. State departments of agriculture and Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices administer the funds under written agreements with USDA. MDA staff put a great deal of effort into publicizing these cost-share opportunities across the state and works directly with certifying agencies to make the application process as simple and streamlined as possible.

In the fall of 2022, the MDA worked with FSA to produce and host a virtual information session to educate organic producers on how to apply with either the MDA or FSA. This was shared on social media, posted to the MDA cost-share website, and saved to FSA's YouTube channel. It was key to work together to advertise and explain differences between OCCSP and the one-time program, Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program (OTECP). Producers could apply for both programs but could apply for OTECP only with FSA. This outreach shifted some of the MDA's cost-share applicants to apply with FSA instead. Data for numbers of FSA farmers and handlers, along with FSA disbursed funding was obtained from their Report to Congress. Table 9 shows the differences in participation between the MDA and FSA's cost-share programs.

Table 9. Organic cost-share participation in Minnesota

Year	Farmers (MDA)	Handlers (MDA)	Farmers & Handlers (FSA)	MDA Disbursed	FSA Disbursed
2021*	384	107	169	$257,608	$72,343
2022*	203	46	288	$137,278	$145,382
2023	171	42	175	$167,339	$75,879
2024	152	36	N/A	$152,233	-

* 50% of certification costs with a limit of $500 per certificate

Transition to Organic Cost-Share

In 2013, on the advice of the Organic Advisory Task Force, the MDA started a similar cost-share program for farmers in transition to organic. The program is designed to encourage transitioning farmers to start working with a certifying agency early in the process. This way they have a reliable source of information regarding practices and inputs that are (and are not) allowed, and they can go through one or more "practice" on-farm inspections. The MDA reimburses 75% of the cost of hiring the certifying agency, soil tests, and attending an organic conference in Minnesota or a neighboring state. Participation is low, given that it is difficult to identify farmers who are in transition: they are not on anybody's radar screen until they contact a certifying agency and declare their intention to certify. In addition, these farmers may not perceive a benefit to working with (and paying for) a certifier until they are ready to certify, even if 75% of the cost is covered.

Several other states have heard about the transition program and contacted the MDA to learn more about the program. Wisconsin most recently expressed interest.

In 2022, USDA announced the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) which is in place to support organic and transitioning producers. There are six regions across the United States, and each is comprised of partner organizations that are building paid mentoring networks to share insights and advice, technical assistance, community building, and organic workforce development. This program goes through 2027 and may temporarily hinder participation in the MDA transition program.

Organic activities by partner organizations

University of Minnesota

This section highlights the breadth of U of M's leadership in organic agriculture through its integrated research and outreach efforts. These projects span disciplines but share common goals: advancing organic practices, supporting producer transition, improving sustainability, and addressing economic and environmental challenges faced by organic and transitioning growers statewide.

Agronomy

Support for organic grain growers is provided through statewide technical assistance efforts, particularly via the TOPP and the Forever Green Network. These initiatives assist both current and transitioning organic producers in adopting and maintaining sustainable practices. Active engagement with Minnesota's organic support community is a key component of this work, including one-on-one technical support, agronomic services, and the development of educational materials tailored to the needs of organic grain farmers.

A program in Owatonna, now in its 20th year, continues to serve as a cornerstone for education on organic crop production and related topics. This program is a trusted resource for growers seeking to deepen their knowledge and improve their practices.

In addition to direct producer support, efforts are made to connect community-based agricultural stakeholders—including farmers, researchers, and university staff and faculty—to foster collaboration on community-driven agricultural projects. These partnerships help ensure that research and innovation are grounded in the real-world needs of Minnesota's agricultural communities.

Looking ahead, future initiatives include leading the development and implementation of passive solar greenhouses, with a focus on sustainable organic vegetable production. These efforts aim to expand year-round growing opportunities while maintaining environmental stewardship. Expertise in organic practices also is shared through presentations at organic-themed workshops and events across the state—contributing to broader education and outreach within the organic agriculture community.

At the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC), research is underway to evaluate greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dynamics, specifically comparing CO_2 flux and ecosystem carbon balances in organic alfalfa versus alfalfa-meadow fescue systems. Plans include integrated feeding trials to explore the implications of these systems on livestock nutrition and sustainability.

An organic needs-assessment survey was conducted targeting Minnesota row crop and forage producers to identify key challenges and opportunities—helping to guide future research and outreach efforts.

Educational outreach also is a priority, with wintertime workshops focused on organic row crop and forage production. These events provide valuable resources and learning opportunities for producers seeking to improve their organic practices.

In the area of nutrient management, a two-year field trial at WCROC evaluated the effects of different types and rates of swine manure fertilization on organic hybrid rye. This research supports the development of optimized fertility strategies that align with organic standards while enhancing crop productivity and environmental sustainability.

Animal Science

All Extension efforts are closely integrated with active research projects, ensuring that the knowledge shared with producers and stakeholders is both timely and grounded in current scientific findings. A flagship outreach event, Organic Dairy Day, is held annually at WCROC. This field day highlights ongoing research and innovations in organic dairy systems, offering producers hands-on learning opportunities and direct engagement with researchers.

To maintain consistent communication with the organic dairy community, the Organic Dairy Newsletter is published twice yearly, providing updates on research developments, management practices, and resources tailored to organic producers. Complementing this is The Moos Room Podcast, an internationally streamed show reaching listeners in more than 30 countries. The podcast focuses on dairy science and management and regularly features content specific to organic systems while delivering accessible, research-based insights to a broad audience.

A wide range of research initiatives is underway to advance organic and low-input dairy production systems, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, animal welfare, and productivity. These efforts include studies on genetic selection for reduced greenhouse gas emissions and evaluating Holstein and crossbred cattle for enteric methane output. Additional research on milk and forage quality explores the impact of high-legume diets and alternative feeding strategies in organic systems.

Animal health and welfare are central to this work. Ongoing studies aim to develop evidence-based, organic-compatible approaches to mastitis prevention and treatment. Research on parasite resistance and genomic selection investigates both the economic implications and opportunities for breeding more resilient animals. Further studies on milk fatty acid profiles compare Holstein, ProCROSS, and Grazecross cows to better understand nutritional quality across breeds.

Innovative approaches to disbudding practices also are being explored, with a focus on pain management and alternatives suitable for transitioning organic dairies. In calf management, researchers are comparing traditional housing systems with group, pair, and outdoor-with-dam rearing options to assess impacts on health, behavior, and welfare.

In addition to dairy-focused initiatives, Extension also supports the production of high-quality pork within sustainable systems. Parallel research efforts aim to enhance swine welfare and production through humane and environmentally responsible practices. Key areas of focus include automated monitoring of behavioral indicators, determining space requirements for group-housed sows, and improving the welfare of slow-growing

pigs. Studies also address tail-biting behavior, strategies to reduce aggression in group-housed sows, and methods to minimize piglet mortality in alternative farrowing systems.

These swine-focused initiatives align with broader goals to support sustainable pork production by addressing critical challenges, such as animal welfare, profitability, and biosecurity. Together, these research and outreach efforts contribute to the development of resilient, ethical, and environmentally responsible livestock systems.

Economics

Extension and outreach efforts encompass a wide range of initiatives designed to support sustainable agriculture and organic production. One key area of focus involves participation in multistate projects that examine the economics of cover cropping and the impacts of climate-related pests. These efforts help producers make informed decisions by applying economic thresholds and adapting to shifting environmental conditions.

The development of a financial literacy curriculum and training opportunities for students aim to equip the next generation of agricultural professionals with the skills needed for long-term success in a changing agricultural landscape. A central component of these efforts is active involvement in the U of M's TOPP initiative, which provides technical support and resources to organic growers across the state. This commitment to organic agriculture is further demonstrated through leadership roles in key organizations.

Extension also contributes to the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA), to support statewide initiatives that promote sustainable farming practices. Additionally, contributing to the Organic Fruit Growers Association supports the growth, resilience, and visibility of Minnesota's organic fruit industry.

Another important area of collaboration is the Organic Seed Systems initiative, which partners with community growers to cultivate culturally significant seeds using organic methods. This work preserves agricultural heritage and expands enterprise opportunities by connecting farmers to both food and seed markets.

Field research efforts are centered on advancing organic fruit production and enhancing grower resilience. A major area of study focuses on organic day-neutral strawberries, with projects aimed at improving yields and developing effective, organic-compatible pest-management strategies.

Support for fruit growers also is provided by the Organic Fruit Growers Association, particularly in such areas as business finance and climate resilience planning. These efforts help producers adapt to environmental challenges while maintaining economic sustainability.

Educational outreach remains a vital part of this work. Coordination of organic fruit grower education sessions at winter conferences ensures that growers have access to the latest research, practical tools, and opportunities for peer learning—strengthening the organic community through shared knowledge and collaboration.

Horticulture

Extension and outreach activities are advancing sustainable and organic agriculture through a variety of innovative programs. At the U of M's Student Organic Farm (SOF), a pilot organic broiler chicken project is integrating poultry into diversified, small-scale vegetable systems. This initiative provides students with hands-on training in poultry care, pasture management, and on-farm processing, with a strong emphasis on food safety, biosecurity, and sustainable production practices.

To support small-scale and urban farmers, educational resources are being developed to help integrate cut flowers into annual production systems to help growers enhance farm profitability and diversify income streams. Research also is being conducted on the integration of cut flowers into low-input systems to evaluate suitable flower varieties, assess ecosystem services, and identify potential challenges such as pest pressure.

In addition, Organic Fruit and Vegetable Field Days are organized to showcase organic production practices, offering growers practical insights and peer learning opportunities.

Training in integrated pest management (IPM) tailored for beginning and emerging vegetable growers using organic or low-input systems are complemented by contributions to the U of M Extension insect and disease webpages, where organic management options are being added to expand the reach and relevance of these resources.

Organic and cultural control strategies also are being integrated into the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide, ensuring that this regional resource better serves the needs of organic producers.

On the research side, collaborative efforts are underway to strengthen organic fruit production in the Upper Midwest. A partnership with the University of Wisconsin is addressing challenges in transitioning to organic day-neutral strawberry production, with the goal of enhancing and sustaining organic strawberry farming in the region.

In a broader effort to support sustainable berry production, a multistate team is working to integrate organic-compatible strategies such as biological control, non-chemical methods, and conservation practices. This project includes outreach and training to build an organic-literate Extension workforce capable of supporting these systems.

Soil

Significant outreach and education efforts are carried out through workshops, field days, and collaborative events—many of which are conducted in partnership with Extension educator Natalie Hoidal, a co-investigator on current funded projects. These activities respond directly to grower needs and are grounded in applied research and practical experience.

A key focus is on high tunnel production, where educational programming emphasizes organic practices. This includes leading a High Tunnel Production Course and co-developing nutrient management tools tailored for diversified growers using organic fertility sources in both field and tunnel systems. Additional workshops provide training on crop planning and scaling up to wholesale markets, helping growers transition successfully while maintaining organic integrity.

Outreach also includes climate adaptation farmer cohorts, which offer tailored support for organic producers navigating climate resilience challenges. Soil Health Bus Tours showcase strategies used in small-scale organic systems, while field day presentations at university research stations and on-farm events highlight regenerative and organic management practices.

Engagement with industry partners extends the impact of this work, particularly through sharing insights on lifecycle analysis and the benefits of regenerative and perennial cropping systems. Research findings are frequently presented at organic field days and events, including the annual organic field day at the Southwest

Research and Outreach Center (SWROC), which serves as a key platform for connecting with the organic farming community.

Efforts are focused on advancing soil health, climate resilience, and culturally relevant production systems. A major initiative is the OREI-funded cover crop project, which spans more than 40 farms and investigates the impact of cover crops on soil health and productivity in high tunnel systems. Complementing this is the 100 Farms Project, which assesses soil health across small-scale vegetable farms in Minnesota—most of which use organic practices.

Research also supports culturally relevant crop nutrition, with collaboration on MDA-funded projects to develop nutrient recommendations for East and West African crops grown in Minnesota using organic fertility sources. This work ties into broader investigations of nutrient and vitamin content in organic versus conventional vegetables. And it includes a SARE-funded train-the-trainer program focused on organic practices, and studies on regenerative cropping systems, particularly Intermediate Wheatgrass (Kernza), comparing the climate impacts of organic and conventional regenerative approaches. Collaborative projects further explore the benefits and applications of cover crops in organic systems.

A partnership with St. Thomas University on an NSF-funded project also examines urban soil health in organic systems.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The NRCS is the USDA's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, Tribes, and other organizations. For more than 80 years, NRCS and its predecessor agencies have worked in close partnerships with farmers and ranchers, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes.

NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs the agency provides financial assistance for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal, and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forestland.

The following NRCS programs offer financial assistance for organic or transitioning producers:

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance. The higher the performance, the higher the payment. Through CSP, participants can take additional steps to improve the resource conditions on their land including soil, air and habitat quality, water quality and quantity, and energy conservation.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat. The Organic Initiative through EQIP provides financial assistance to implement a broad set of conservation practices to assist organic producers in addressing resource concerns. Producers can apply

through the Certified Organic or Transitioning to Organic funding categories. NRCS encourages organic producers to apply in these categories, but they can apply in any of the agency's funding categories. Table 10 shows EQIP Organic and Transitional project funding in Minnesota since 2020.

Table 10. NRCS-EQIP organic farmer participation and funding in Minnesota, 2020-24

Year	# of Transitional Organic Contracts	Financial Assistance	# of Certified Organic Contracts	Financial Assistance
2020	5	$209,661	-	-
2021	2	$71,100	-	-
2022	7	$169,544	1	$4,876
2023	12	$823,634	5	$600,907
2024	6	$515,679	2	$206,747
Totals	32	$1,789,618	8	$812,530

USDA Minnesota Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Each year, the USDA Farm Service attends the Minnesota Organic Conference and provides an educational booth about FSA services and loans, visiting with attendees about what FSA is and how the agency can help organic producers. Historically, FSA also sent staff to attend the regional Marbleseed Organic Conference in Wisconsin to share information and to learn.

FSA staff take a USDA internal Organic 101 training, and several staff members from county offices and the state office receive additional training. Minnesota FSA staff also participate in an internal USDA Organic Champions team and serve on the MDA's Organic Advisory Task Force.

FSA plays a vital role in transitioning the next generation into farming through the loan programs it offers. FSA makes direct and guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans to eligible farmers and ranchers. FSA also offers a Direct Operating Microloan program, designed for small and beginning farmers, which requires less paperwork and offers expanded eligibility requirements compared to other loans. The program has been very successful and now includes Direct Farm Ownership loans.

Agricultural operations complete annual crop acreage certifications to FSA, in which producers can report acres as organic or transitional. It is a producer's choice to report crops as organic, and the organic practice is recorded at the field level. From 2020 to 2025, the number of farms reported as organic increased each year with 853 farms reported in 2024.

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program provides low interest financing producers can use to build or upgrade storage or handling facilities. In addition, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides financial assistance to producers of organic and conventionally grown crops that do not qualify for coverage under traditional crop insurance. There is an organic price option available when securing NAP coverage.

In 2017, FSA started offering the Organic Certification Cost-Share Program alongside the MDA, providing cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification. USDA also implemented the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) with 209 applications in 2020, 241 applications in 2021, and 244 applications in 2022. In recent years, FSA also implemented the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program, which mitigates market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. In program year 2023, the program provided more than $1.3 million dollars to approximately 90 applicants, while in 2024 more than $1.8 million dollars was disbursed to 79 participating operations.

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)

RMA authorizes crop insurance coverage for organic producers and for producers transitioning to organic production. While recognizing organic good farming practices, RMA continues to improve viable and effective risk management options for organic production systems through new and innovative programs, including the Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm policies. These options provide a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy. RMA continues to expand premium organic price elections to extend the safety net provided by crop insurance and to provide fair and flexible solutions to organic producers. RMA also expanded coverage options for specialty and organic growers to include the availability of enterprise and optional units.

Insurance experience for Minnesota organic crops

Organic farming is one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture in the United States. Table 11 illustrates organic net insured acres in Minnesota, which grew by more than 25%, from 2019 to 2023. With this increase in participation, RMA has improved risk management options for organic production systems, including expanding the availability of premium price elections for organic crops to 84 crops nationwide and availability of enterprise and optional units. There were 17 organic crops reported in Minnesota during the five-year period.

Table 11. Minnesota Net Insured Organic Acres 2019-2023

Crop Year	Acres
2019	92,554
2020	101,879
2021	115,394
2022	122,072
2023	125,815

Organic industry education

RMA provides educational opportunities through the Risk Management Education & Outreach program. RMA works with stakeholders and partners to educate and assist producers in effectively managing risks and challenges. Since 2021, RMA has awarded more than $17 million in outreach partnerships to organizations across the country.

Each year, RMA employees attend trainings and conferences to further their knowledge of organic production, present information about current RMA programs that benefit the organic community, and foster partnerships with organizations.

Learn more about RMA

RMA's Organic Crops website has more information on risk management tools available for organic farmers. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. Visit the RMA website to learn more about RMA, crop insurance, and the modern farm safety net.

Recommendations

Previous recommendations – progress toward goals

Tables 12 to 16 below reflect activity and progress on recommendations contained in the 2020 Status of Organic Agriculture in Minnesota report, using this scale: substantial progress; modest progress; little progress; and no progress.

Table 12. Education and information

Recommendation	Progress	Activities
Continue Minnesota Organic Conference (MOC). Collaborate with partners, attend field days.	Modest	Pivoted to online events during COVID-19 and attendance is still strong.
Provide reliable and unbiased information to organic, prospective organic producers, and other stakeholders.	Substantial	Provided by link on the MDA Organic website, networking, and email/phone communication.
Support producer research that promotes environmentally sustainable organic practices.	Modest	The MDA funded 7 Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant projects on organic farms between 2020 and 2024. Awards are listed on the AGRI SustAg Past Projects webpage.
Enhance undergraduate and graduate organic curricula at U of M and encourage colleges in the Minnesota State Colleges & University System to include organic topics in their curricula.	Modest	Recommendations have been supported by the OATF, and letters of support have been shared with the U of M. Collaboration with Minnesota State Farm Business Management to promote organic benchmarking.
Share information with stakeholders on organic trends within and outside of Minnesota from public and private data sources.	Substantial	Provided session at the MOC.

Table 13. Marketing and promotion

Recommendation	Progress	Activities
Encourage expansion of certified organic processing and distribution capacity.	Substantial	MDA Value Added Grant program has funded 26 organic projects, products, or companies between 2020 and 2024. Awards are listed on the AGRI Value-Added Past Projects webpage.

Table 14. Technical and financial assistance

Recommendation	Progress	Activities
Provide assistance to farmers during transition.	Little	MDA created a transition assistance program in 2011; other states have replicated it. Collaboration with U of M MISA to promote TOPP.
Facilitate connections between food companies and organic producers and identify domestic and international opportunities.	Modest	MDA Food Business Development program specifically helps food businesses, and MDA staff can assist with an export plan.
Continue to offer Organic Certification Cost-Share.	Substantial	MDA continues to administer federal organic certification cost-share funds.

Table 15. Policy and regulation

Recommendation	Progress	Activities
Inform agricultural leaders, organic farmers, and consumers about organic laws and regulations.	Modest	Provided information to constituents via OATF meetings and email communications via U of M Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture listserv.
Prohibit pesticide application on roadsides/right of ways that adjoin certified organic land.	No	We did not pursue this project.
Help organic farmers protect the integrity of organic crops and livestock regarding spray drift. Offer no-spray signs, a sensitive crops registry, and clear avenues for reporting drift.	Substantial	Continue to distribute organic signs. Implemented Driftwatch™ sensitive crops registry. Provided educational sessions about drift law and reporting at MOC. Reminded growers seasonally of pesticide drift hotline.

Table 16. Research

Recommendation	Progress	Activities
Support research at the U of M Southwest Research and Outreach Center, along with research at the West Central Research and Outreach Center.	Modest	Recommendations have been made by the OATF and shared with the U of M.

Recommendation	Progress	Activities
Investigate research questions germane to organic production and handling, guided by stakeholder interests, needs, and priorities.	Substantial	U of M obtained state, federal, and private funding for numerous organic research/outreach projects involving crops, soils, horticulture, animal and veterinary science, entomology, economics, nutrition, and food science.
Ensure researchers know about legislatively funded research opportunities administered by the MDA (e.g., Crop Research Grant, Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer Program, and Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants).	Substantial	Opportunities have been shared via U of M Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture listserv.

Current recommendations

The MDA recommends that it, the U of M, and other partners in the state undertake several efforts to support and expand the growth of Minnesota's organic agriculture sector and the interests of producers, value-added businesses, consumers, and associated services it comprises. These recommendations are based on input contributed by the Minnesota OATF, survey responses by organic farmer stakeholders, the experiences of organizational partners, and other direct input to the MDA from the organic community.

Programs

- Continue to provide reliable, unbiased information to organic and prospective organic producers and handlers, consumers, and other stakeholders, referring them to other partners as appropriate.
- Monitor organic/prospective organic producers' information needs and deliver programs like the Minnesota Organic Conference, stand-alone workshops, and field days in collaboration with partners.
- Facilitate connections between organic farmers and organic food companies. Help both identify and pursue domestic and international marketing opportunities.
- Continue to administer federal organic certification cost-share funds and expand transition to organic cost-share program (NOTE: this will require additional funding).
- Continue statutory responsibility to investigate and respond to pesticide drift complaints. Provide collateral materials like Please Do Not Spray signs and support services such as the Driftwatch™ registry that help organic producers make applicators aware of their status.
- Ensure that organic producers and organic companies know of their eligibility for MDA programs like the Value Added Grant Program, Livestock Investment Grant Program, Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and loans.
- Encourage institutions in the Minnesota State and Colleges & Universities system to include organic topics in their applied agriculture curricula.

- Enhance undergraduate and graduate organic curricula at the U of M, both in and beyond the Colleges of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Science and Veterinary Medicine. Continue to offer hands-on organic learning opportunities, such the U of M student organic farm and graduate assistantships.
- Encourage the purchase of local organic products through programs like Minnesota Grown.
- Increase outreach to nontraditional farmers.

Policy & regulatory support

- Keep Minnesota agricultural leaders, organic farmers, and consumers informed about proposed changes to organic laws and regulations that could affect them, and comment as appropriate.

Research

- Continue support for both long and short-term organic cropping systems research at the U of M Southwest Research and Outreach Center and for organic dairy research at the West Central Research and Outreach Center.
- Pursue applied research in areas that are high priority for organic producers, including: crop and livestock breeding for organic systems; soil health and fertility; weed management; insect pest management; physical and economic implications of GMO pollen drift; food safety protocols that comply with organic standards; nutritional composition of organic foods; barriers to adoption (transition); and organic farm profitability.
- Regularly interact with MN OATF members, organic farmers, and organic handlers to learn about emerging research and information needs. Actively engage organic farmers (or handlers, as appropriate) in designing and carrying out experiments and outreach.
- Ensure that researchers who have organic interests know about legislatively funded research opportunities administered by the MDA (e.g., Crop Research Grants, Agriculture Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer Program, and Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants).
- Glean information on organic trends within and outside Minnesota from public and private data sources and share this information and opportunities with stakeholders and partners.

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Appendix A. 2025 Minnesota Organic Farmer Survey

This is the information included in the2025 Minnesota Organic Farmer Survey mailed in the spring of 2025.

Dear Organic Grower:

Every few years, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture surveys organic farmers to learn about how organic agriculture is developing in Minnesota and what organic farmers need. You can see results of recent surveys on the MDA's Organic Agriculture webpage (www.mda.state.mn.us/organic).

This year, we are asking 27 questions about you, your operation, and your opinions. Please return one survey per farm in the enclosed envelope before April 11, 2025 or use the QR code to fill out and submit the survey online. If a question does not apply, just leave it blank. If you have questions or you are not a certified organic grower and want to be removed from our mailing list, please call Cassie at 651-201-6134. The survey is voluntary and all individual responses will remain confidential. Thanks for your help.

Survey Number: _____

1. How old were you on December 31, 2024? [number] years
2. Mark which applies:
    a. Entire operation certified organic
    b. Some certified organic, some in transition
    c. Split operation: certified organic & conventional
    d. Organic, exempt from certification
    e. Does not apply: I am not/no longer organic
3. How many years have you operated a farm? [number] years
4. How many years have you farmed certified organic? [number] years
5. How did you start farming organic?
    a. Started out as conventional and transitioned to organic
    b. Have always farmed organically
    c. Other
6. What was your primary organic farming enterprise in 2024? (mark only ONE)
    a. Cash crop (grains, oilseeds, and/or hay, etc.)
        i. Food grade
        ii. Feed grade
        iii. Both
    b. Dairy
    c. Other livestock (including beef, poultry, sheep, goats, etc.)
    d. Vegetables
    e. Fruit
    f. Other:
7. Last year (2024) did you:
    a. Increase organic acreage or livestock numbers
    b. Decrease organic acreage or livestock numbers
    c. Maintain current organic acreage or livestock numbers
    d. Why?

8. During the next five years, do you intend to:
    a. Increase organic acreage or livestock numbers
    b. Decrease organic acreage or livestock numbers
    c. Maintain current organic acreage or livestock numbers
    d. Why?
9. In your experience, how do the production costs of organic farming compare with conventional?
    a. Organic costs are higher
    b. They are about the same
    c. Organic costs are lower
10. In your experience, how does the profitability of organic farming compare with conventional?
    a. Organic is more profitable
    b. They are about the same
    c. Organic is less profitable
11. Do you buy crop insurance for your organic production? (Yes/No)
12. How many people (incl. self, family, hired labor) work on the farm?
    a. Full-time:
    b. Part-time:
13. Do you think you or a family member will be farming
    a. In 5 years? (Yes/No)
    b. In 10 years? (Yes/No)
    c. In 20 years? (Yes/No)
14. How important are the following in YOUR decision to farm organically? (select not important, slightly important, or very important)
    a. Price premiums
    b. Production costs
    c. Health/safety (self, family, farm employees)
    d. Think organic food is healthier or higher quality
    e. Environmental/conservation reasons
    f. Personal satisfaction – I enjoy farming this way
    g. Philosophical/ethical reasons
    h. Other (explain)
15. How important are the following research topics to organic agriculture in Minnesota? (select not important, slightly important, moderately important, very important, or no opinion)
    a. Consumer attitudes/behavior
    b. Economics of organic farming
    c. GMO pollen drift
    d. Insect pests and pest management
    e. Livestock health
    f. Milk quality
    g. Organic crop/livestock marketing
    h. Organic food quality/safety studies
    i. Organic food nutrition studies
    j. Organic seed breeding/variety development
    k. Organic variety trials

l. Plant diseases
m. Soil fertility
n. Soil health/biology
o. Strategies for adapting to climate change
p. Transition to organic (best practices)
q. Weed management
r. Yields/production
s. Other (explain)

16. Last year (2024), how big a challenge were the following issues for you? (select not a problem, slight problem, medium problem, big problem, or doesn't apply)
    a. Organic seed availability
    b. Organic seed price
    c. Organic feed availability
    d. Organic feed price
    e. Cost of fuel
    f. GMO pollen drift
    g. Herbicide/pesticide drift
    h. Soybean aphid
    i. Other insect pests (other than soybean aphid)
    j. Weed control
    k. Extreme weather
    l. Labor availability
    m. Labor cost
    n. Land cost (purchase price or rental rates)
    o. Availability of organic processing
    p. Transportation for organic crops or livestock
    q. Cost of health insurance
    r. Cost of organic certification
    s. Competition from organic imports
    t. Public confusion about what "organic" means or competition from labels like "natural"
    u. Other:
17. The MN Organic Conference takes place early January in St. Cloud, MN. Do you attend? (Yes/No)
    a. If no, why not?
        i. Time of year
        ii. Location
        iii. Cost
        iv. Doesn't interest me
        v. Other
18. How do you most like to get information about farming and organic topics? (check all that apply)
    a. Farm papers
    b. Certifier newsletters
    c. E-mail
    d. My own web searches
    e. Meetings/conferences

f. Field days
g. Conference calls
h. Webinars
i. Other

19. What kind of marketing help do you or would you find most useful? (check all that apply)
    a. Grower directories
    b. Buyer directories
    c. Seminars to improve marketing skills
    d. Business planning/business development
    e. Local or state events where I can meet buyers
    f. International trade mission
    g. Other
20. How interested are you in using the following markets for your organic production during the next 5 years? (select already use this market, not interested, slightly interested, moderately interested, very interested)
    a. Wholesale (to co-op, processor, mill, distributor, broker)
    b. Direct to consumers (at farm stand, farmers market, CSA, etc.)
    c. Internet or mail order
    d. Retailers (to supermarket, natural foods store, etc.)
    e. Restaurants/caterers
    f. Other institutions (e.g., hospitals, schools)
    g. Markets that want "seconds" (cosmetically imperfect/less than Grade A)
    h. Other
21. How confident are you that the National Organic Standards are being fairly and adequately enforced?
    a. Very confident
    b. Somewhat confident
    c. Not at all confident
22. Name of current certifying agency(ies):
23. Did you sell any certified organic product as conventional or non-GMO in 2024?
    a. Yes, sold some certified organic production as conventional
    b. Yes, sold some certified organic production as non-GMO
    c. No, sold all certified organic as organic
24. In 2024, what was your total gross annual income from all farming?
    a. Less than $50,000
    b. $100,001-$250,000
    c. $500,001-$1,000,000
    d. $50,001-$100,000
    e. $250,001-$500,000
    f. Over $1,000,000
25. In 2024, what % of this gross annual farm income came from the sale of organic products? _____%
26. Organic consumer demand has been growing in the U.S., but the number of organic farms and acres has not. Why do you think this is?
27. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges Minnesota organic farmers are currently facing?

Appendix B. Minnesota Organic Conference Educational Breakout Sessions 2021-2024

2021 (virtual)

- Back to the Future: Regenerative-Organic Food Production for Good Health
- Connecting Soil, Animal, and Human Health
- Soil Health on Organic Farms
- The Challenges of Our Times: Climate Change, COVID, and Organic Farm Viability

2022 (virtual)

- Bend Don't Break: Exploring Resilience
- Bringing Cows, Covers, and Reduced Tillage into your Organic World
- “Kiss the Ground” discussion
- Market Opportunities: What does it take to produce and sell “Halal” certified meat in Minnesota?
- Regenerating Soil with Organic, Biologically Based Practices
- Resilience through Organic Agriculture: Recommendations for Policy Action
- Science, Community, Story: Social Learning for a Just Perennial Future
- Shipping Containers: Shipping Outside the “Box”
- The Buyer's Journey: Digital Tools to Make an Impact
- The Future of Seeds – brought to you by farmers, breeders, and chefs
- Transitioning to an Organic System
- What Drives Consumer Demand for Organic Food Products?

2023

- A Better You for A Better Farm
- A Pair with Potential: Hybrid Rye + Swine
- Agriculture in a Changing Climate: What’s Next?
- ANOTHER Disease or Pest? Where do we go from here?
- Ask a Vet: Grazing Season Health Issues
- Building a Sustainable Direct-to-Market Farm Business
- Building Organic Grain Markets
- Covers That Pay: Kernza®, Camelina, and Other New For-Profit Cover Crops
- Crop Insurance for the Conservation-Minded
- Ecosystem Services: Credit Where Due
- Everyone has a Role
- Facing the Future: Marketing Organic Agricultural Products
- Farm Marketing 101
- Farm Scale Deep Winter Greenhouses for Market Growers
- Farming and Food Systems in Uncertain Times: A Conversation

- From Basement to Business: Scaling Our Mushroom Company
- Gaining Market Power and Competitive Advantage through Cooperatives
- Grazing for Grassland: Conservation Grazing into the Future
- Improving High Tunnel Soils with Cover Crops
- Interpreting the Origin of Livestock Rule
- Keeping Organic Soybean Fields Clean
- Nutrient Management Basics for Organic Farms
- Organic Dairy Can Store Carbon: Strategies for the Future
- Organic Hemp and CBD Production: Healthy Business and Healthy Self
- Organic Isn't Organic if You Can't Document It
- Organic or Regenerative or Sustainable: What's in a Name?
- Planning for Change: Are Organic Soybeans and Corn Right for You?
- Putting Organic Dairy Research to Work
- Small but Profitable: Organic Farm Financial Performance in the Upper Midwest
- Strawberry Fields Forever: Growing Organically in Minnesota
- Strength from the Soil: How Organic Farmers and Sound Public Policy Can Straighten the Whiffletree of U.S. Agriculture
- The Nuts and Bolts of Productive Family Farm Meetings
- Transitioning to Organic
- Unleash Biology! The Benefits of Soil Microbes
- Weed Management for Organic Fruits and Vegetables
- What's New at the U? How can we make research "sexy"?
- Worms, Germs, and Nasty Things

2024

- Adding Covers to Your Soil Health Toolbox
- Adding Value, Not Risk, with Farm-Grown Products
- Ask a Vet: Designing Health Protocols
- Building Local Foods Capacity through On-Farm Community Events
- Confused about Hemp?
- Connecting People with Produce
- Crop Insurance for Organic Operations
- Debates in Organic
- Demystifying Organic Certification
- Going Solar on Your Farm
- Grain Marketing Issues & Solutions
- Grant Writing for Farmers & Small Businesses
- Grazing for Soil Health
- Growing Hybrid Rye for Organic Pork Success
- Holistic Approaches to Weed Management for Vegetables
- How Can a Cooperative Help You?

- Hybrid Hazelnuts Bred for Minnesota
- Improving the Health of Organic Dairy Cows and Heifers
- Leveraging Technology to Support Resilient Local Food Systems
- Living Trellis in Beans
- Maximizing the Benefits of Soil Health Practices
- New & Emerging Winter Annual Grains & Oilseeds
- Organic Grain Rotation Workshop
- Organic Market Outlook: Market Risks and Opportunities
- Our Soil, Ourselves; Field Notes of a 'Farmily' Doctor
- Preparing for Disease
- Progress in the Commercial Production of American Elderberries
- Social Media for Your Farm
- Soil: Get the Basics Right
- The Samba Wasp: New Biological Control for Berry Crops
- Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)
- Upping Your Documentation Game
- USDA Organic Market Update
- Virtual Fencing for Your Farm
- What Needs to Be Regenerated?
- What's New in Soybeans?

Appendix C. Minnesota Organic Legislative History

1985 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 237, sections 2-6

- Defines organic food.
- Defines requirements for growth, composition, and storage of organic food.
- Authorizes the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture to enforce labeling, sale, and advertising of organic food.
- Allows the commissioner to adopt rules to further clarify organic food standards and marketing practices.
- Chapter becomes effective April 1, 1986.

1987 Minnesota Rules, chapter 1555.0005 – 1555.0012

- Defines state organic food and marketing standards.

1988 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 688, article 8, section 1 and article 21, section 3

- Authorizes the commissioner to designate organizations located in the state to certify organic products in the state.
- Authorizes the commissioner to set certification fees charged to organic producers.
- Requires certification organization to provide certification to a person whose production meets certification standards and who has paid membership dues and certification fees.
- Allows certification organizations to draft rules for implementation of the organic certification program for submission to the commissioner.
- Appropriates $100,000 for a grant to a certification organization for start-up and initial administrative costs.
- Appropriates $50,000 to the Department to administer and enforce the organic food law.

1989 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 350, article 20, section 14

- Appropriates $100,000 for a grant to a certification organization to continue the certification process authorized above.

1990 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 547, sections 3-4

- Allows the commissioner to designate certification organizations outside Minnesota to certify organic products in the state.
- Removes the commissioner's authority to set certification fees.
- Removes the requirement to pay membership dues as a certification requirement.
- Requires that Minnesota grown organic products must be certified by a designated certification organization in order to be labeled "certified."
- Requires that certified organic products sold in the state must be certified by a designated certification organization or by a certification organization approved by the commissioner
- Establishes the Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force.
- Requires the commissioner to seek evaluation and recommendation of the task force before approving certification organizations.

1990 Minnesota Rules, chapter 1556.0200 – 1556.0227

- Provides the requirements for certification of products produced, processed, and distributed under Minnesota organic standards.

1999 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 231, sections 11, 26-27, and 56-57

- Appropriates $50,000 per year to the Department for annual organic certification cost-share payments to farmers and for organic market and program development.
- Adds two organic farmers to both the sustainable agriculture grant review panel and the shared savings loan review panel.
- Expands the duties of the commissioner to promote opportunities for organic agriculture by surveying producers to assess research and information needs, demonstrate organic practices, coordinate department organic activities with other state agencies and the University, and report on the status of organic agriculture on a biennial basis.
- Specifies membership categories for the commissioner's Organic Advisory Task Force and extends the task force expiration date to June 30, 2003.

2003 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 107, sections 15-19

- Adopts federal organic standards and rules as the organic food production law and rules of Minnesota.
- Brings state organic statutes into conformity with federal law by repealing any existing state laws that conflict with federal law.
- Retains current agency duties and strengthens the agency's ability to provide technical, financial, and marketing services to support organic farmers and the organic industry.
- Requires the agency to report on economic and health aspects of organic farming.
- Authorizes the agency to register state organic production and handling operations, and certification agents operating in the state.
- Expands the commissioner's Organic Advisory Task Force to better reflect the organic food industry by adding one more organic food processor representative, one more representative of the organic food wholesaler/retailer/distributor sector, and a representative of the USDA
- Reauthorizes the Organic Advisory Task Force until June 30, 2005.

2005 Minnesota Session Laws 2005, 1st Special Session, chapter 1, section 61

- Reauthorizes the Organic Advisory Task Force until June 30, 2009.

2007 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 45, section 3

- Appropriates $100,000 per year to the Department for annual organic certification cost-share payments to farmers and processors with a payment rate of 2/3 of the cost of certification, not to exceed $350, with any excess appropriation for organic market and program development.
- Limits eligibility to receive state organic cost-share reimbursement to five years.

2008 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 297, section 63

- Appropriates $100,000 per year to the Department for annual organic certification cost-share payments to farmers and processors with a payment rate of 2/3 of the cost of certification, not to exceed $350, with $15,000 for organic market and program development.
- Limits eligibility to receive state organic cost-share reimbursement to five years.

2009 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 94, section 3

- Appropriates $10,000 per year to the Department for annual organic certification cost-share payments to farmers and processors who do not receive federal cost-share payments. Specifies a payment rate of 2/3 of the cost of certification, not to exceed $350, with any excess appropriation for organic market and program development.
- Limits eligibility to receive state organic cost-share reimbursement to five years.
- Authorizes the use of vouchers for the purchase of cost-neutral organic WIC allowable food.
- Expands the Organic Advisory Task Force's charge to advise the U of M.
- Revises the composition of the Organic Advisory Task Force with a total of 15 members to serve staggered terms.
- Reauthorizes the Organic Advisory Task Force until June 30, 2013.

2011 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 5, subd. 5 (a)(3-4); chapter 14, subd. 3

- Appropriates funds for the U of M College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences to establish and lead organic research, education, and outreach in a number of areas and identifies organic crop and livestock research as a priority research area.
- Appropriates $10,000 per year to the Department for annual organic certification cost-share payments to farmers and processors who do not receive federal cost-share payments. Specifies a payment rate of 2/3 of the cost of certification, not to exceed $350, with a limit of five years. Allows any excess appropriation to be spent for organic market and program development, producer education, transition support, or sustainable agriculture demonstration grants.

2012 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 187, article 1, section 2; chapter 244, section 33

- Amends MINN. STAT. 2010, section 12A.04, to specify that state appropriations for disaster assistance to producers may be used for organic certification assistance.
- Amends the required contents and changes frequency of reporting to the Legislature on the status of organic agriculture in Minnesota.

2013 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 99, section 5, subd. 4 (a)(3) and (a)(4)(xi); chapter 114, section 3, subd. 3; chapter 114, section 43

- Appropriates funds for the U of M College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences to establish and lead organic research, education, and outreach in a number of areas and identifies organic crop and livestock research as a priority research area.
- Authorizes the commissioner to use funds appropriated in this subdivision for annual organic certification cost-share payments of 75% of the cost of certification or $750, whichever is less.
- Authorizes commissioner to allocate funds appropriated in this subdivision for organic market and program development, including organic producer education efforts, assistance for persons transitioning from conventional to organic agriculture, or sustainable agriculture demonstration grants.
- Establishes three-year terms for Organic Advisory Task Force Members.
- Reauthorizes the Organic Advisory Task Force until June 30, 2016.

2015 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 4, section 2, subd. 3 and section 56, subd. 2; chapter 69, section 5, subd. 4 (a)(3) and subd. 4 (a)(4)(xiii)

- Authorizes the commissioner to use funds appropriated in this subdivision for annual organic certification cost-share payments to resident farmers and handlers or to assist people transitioning from conventional to organic agriculture.
- Requires the commissioner to consult with an advisory panel that includes a person representing organic or sustainable agriculture when awarding grants as part of the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer Program.
- Appropriates funds for the U of M College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences to establish and lead organic research, education and outreach in a number of areas and identifies organic crop and livestock research as a priority research area.

2016 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 184, section 6 and section 31.94

- Authorizes the commissioner to promote organic agriculture in the Minnesota by surveying to determine research needs, work with research and education institutions to demonstrate on-farm organic practices, share state or federal programs that support organic agriculture, provide report on status of organic in years ending in zero or five, may receive state and federal funds to educate and support producers, may facilitate registration of exempt organic producers and handling operations.
- Reauthorizes the Organic Advisory Task Force until June 30, 2019.

2017 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 88, section 2, subd. 3 (d); chapter 89, section 4, subd. 4 (a)(3)

- Authorizes the commissioner to use funds to assist producers transitioning from conventional to organic agriculture.
- Appropriates funds for the U of M College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences to establish and lead organic research, education and outreach in a number of areas and identifies organic crop and livestock research as a priority research area.

2019 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 1, section 2, subd. 3 (e); chapter 38, section 16 and section 31.94, subd. 4 (c); chapter 64, section 4, subd. 4 (a)(3)(4)(xiii)

- Authorizes the commissioner to use funds to assist producers transitioning from conventional to organic agriculture.
- Reauthorizes the Organic Advisory Task Force until June 30, 2024.
- Appropriates funds for the U of M College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences to establish and lead organic research, education and outreach in a number of areas and identifies organic crop and livestock research as a priority research area.
- Appropriates funding for research based on needs of Minnesota's agricultural community in consultation with Minnesota farm organizations with a focus on organic crop and livestock farmers.

2024 Minnesota Session Laws, chapter 126, article 2, section 54

- Compensation and removal of members are governed by section 15.059, subdivision 6. The task force must meet at least twice each year and expires on June 30, 2034.

Appendix D. Data Sets

Number of certified organic handlers and farmers per county, 2024

County	Handlers	Farmers
Aitkin	2	2
Anoka	3	1
Becker	2	3
Beltrami	-	-
Benton	1	2
Big Stone	1	3
Blue Earth	1	8
Brown	3	4
Carlton	-	5
Carver	7	2
Cass	-	1
Chippewa	-	5
Chisago	2	5
Clay	-	6
Clearwater	-	3
Cook	2	1
Cottonwood	1	4
Crow Wing	1	3
Dakota	12	14
Dodge	-	4
Douglas	5	9
Faribault	3	13
Fillmore	4	39
Freeborn	5	15
Goodhue	8	22
Grant	1	2
Hennepin	64	3
Houston	4	18
Hubbard	-	3

County	Handlers	Farmers
Isanti	3	2
Itasca	1	1
Jackson	-	-
Kanabec	1	3
Kandiyohi	1	9
Kittson	-	-
Koochiching	-	-
Lac qui Parle	2	14
Lake	1	-
Lake of the Woods	-	-
Le Sueur	3	7
Lincoln	-	1
Lyon	1	6
Mahnomen	1	2
Marshall	1	1
Martin	4	6
McLeod	3	11
Meeker	2	7
Mille Lacs	-	6
Morrison	1	9
Mower	2	13
Murray	-	5
Nicollet	1	6
Nobles	-	1
Norman	2	5
Olmsted	5	12
Otter Tail	8	21
Pennington	2	-
Pine	-	3

County	Handlers	Farmers
Pipestone	-	7
Polk	5	7
Pope	-	5
Ramsey	12	1
Red Lake	-	-
Redwood	1	-
Renville	1	2
Rice	7	9
Rock	-	5
Roseau	-	3
Scott	6	7
Sherburne	5	1
Sibley	1	7
St Louis	6	1
Stearns	6	50

County	Handlers	Farmers
Steele	7	6
Stevens	3	11
Swift	2	3
Todd	1	25
Traverse	-	2
Wabasha	2	17
Wadena	2	5
Waseca	1	5
Washington	3	6
Watonwan	2	3
Wilkin	2	2
Winona	5	71
Wright	6	14
Yellow Medicine	-	12

Organic feed grade corn prices from 2021-2024

Quarter and year	Price per bushel
Q1 21	$7.75
Q2 21	$8.70
Q3 21	$9.43
Q4 21	$9.10
Q1 22	$9.85
Q2 22	$10.60
Q3 22	$11.36
Q4 22	$11.08

Quarter and year	Price per bushel
Q1 23	$11.10
Q2 23	$10.52
Q3 23	$9.64
Q4 23	$8.67
Q1 24	$7.80
Q2 24	$7.03
Q3 24	$6.61
Q4 24	$6.39

Organic feed grade soybean prices from 2021-2024

Quarter and year	Price per bushel
Q1 21	$19.80
Q2 21	$22.98
Q3 21	$28.48
Q4 21	$28.86
Q1 22	$32.89
Q2 22	$37.75
Q3 22	$40.27
Q4 22	$31.67

Quarter and year	Price per bushel
Q1 23	$28.15
Q2 23	$23.77
Q3 23	$21.85
Q4 23	$20.43
Q1 24	$20.06
Q2 24	$19.48
Q3 24	$19.94
Q4 24	$19.59

Organic feed grade wheat prices from 2021-2024

Quarter and year	Price per bushel
Q1 21	-
Q2 21	-
Q3 21	$8.54
Q4 21	-
Q1 22	$11.23
Q2 22	-
Q3 22	-
Q4 22	-
Q1 23	-
Q2 23	-
Q3 23	$8.70
Q4 23	$8.66
Q1 24	$8.00
Q2 24	$6.89
Q3 24	$6.17
Q4 24	$6.18

Organic and conventional milk prices in Minnesota from 2020-2024

Year	Conventional Milk	Organic Milk
2020	$19.62	$28.94
2021	$18.33	$28.20
2022	$24.10	$30.02
2023	$19.06	$31.38
2024	$21.20	$32.31

U.S. organic sales from 2020-2024

Year	Organic Food Sales ($ billion)	Organic Non-Food Sales ($ billion)
2020	$56,520	$5,250
2021	$57,572	$5,635
2022	$60,086	$5,728
2023	$62,140	$5,893
2024	$65,398	$6,157

U.S. organic food growth vs. total food growth from 2019-2024

Year	Organic Food	Total Food
2019	4.90%	2.40%
2020	13.10%	12.50%
2021	1.90%	2.70%
2022	4.40%	9.70%
2023	3.40%	3.50%
2024	5.20%	2.30%