



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

February 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE JOHN BOOZMAN  
*Ranking Member*  
*Senate Committee on Agriculture,*  
*Nutrition, and Forestry*  
*United States Senate*  
*328A Russell Senate Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20510*

Dear Ranking Member Boozman:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on “The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities.” The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

Enclosure



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

February 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE DAVID SCOTT  
*Ranking Member*  
*House Committee on Agriculture*  
*U.S. House of Representatives*  
*1010 Longworth House Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Ranking Member Scott:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on "The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities." The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Glenn Thompson.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

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Washington, DC 20250

February 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE DEBBIE STABENOW  
*Chairwoman*  
*Senate Committee on Agriculture,*  
*Nutrition, and Forestry*  
*United States Senate*  
*328A Russell Senate Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20510*

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on “The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities.” The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Boozman.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

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Washington, DC 20250

February 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE GLENN THOMPSON  
*Chairman*  
*House Committee on Agriculture*  
*U.S. House of Representatives*  
*1010 Longworth House Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Chairman Thompson:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on "The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities." The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member David Scott.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

Enclosure



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

June 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE SANFORD BISHOP, JR.  
*Ranking Member*  
*House Committee on Appropriations*  
*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,*  
*Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies*  
*U.S. House of Representatives*  
*1036 Longworth House Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Ranking Member Bishop:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on "The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities." The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Andy Harris.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

Enclosure



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

June 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE ANDY HARRIS, M.D.  
*Chairman*  
*House Committee on Appropriations*  
*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,*  
*Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies*  
*U.S. House of Representatives*  
*2362-A Rayburn House Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Chairman Harris:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on "The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities." The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Sanford Bishop, Jr.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

Enclosure



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

June 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE MARTIN HEINRICH  
*Chairman*  
*Senate Committee on Appropriations*  
*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,*  
*Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies*  
*United States Senate*  
*129 Dirksen Senate Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Chairman Heinrich:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on "The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities." The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member John Hoeven.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

Enclosure



Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

June 7, 2023

THE HONORABLE JOHN HOEVEN  
*Ranking Member*  
*Senate Committee on Appropriations*  
*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,*  
*Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies*  
*United States Senate*  
*125 Hart Senate Office Building*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

Dear Ranking Member Hoeven:

Section 10103 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide to Congress an annual report on "The Status of Organic Production and Market Data Activities." The 2021 report is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095.

A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Martin Heinrich.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas J. Vilsack

THOMAS J. VILSACK  
*Secretary*

Enclosure

**U.S. Department of Agriculture Report to Congress**

Data Collection and Reporting Effort for  
Organic Agriculture

**Fiscal Year 2021**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Act) re-authorized \$5 million to USDA for the collection and reporting of data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products. This authority was previously provided under the Agricultural Act of 2014. As required by the Act, USDA collects and distributes reporting on prices of organic agricultural products; develops and implements surveys on organic production, handling, and distribution; and conducts analysis on the data for publication in reports. Of the \$5 million allocation, \$3.5 million was provided to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to support organic production and market data activities and \$1.5 million was provided to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) – including \$0.5 million for the Economic Research Service's (ERS).

The Act also requires USDA to submit an annual report to Congress that summarizes USDA's data collection efforts to provide organic price information, including a description of how data collection agencies are coordinating with data-user agencies (e.g., Risk Management Agency (RMA)) to meet their needs for useful data (including specifically RMA's responsibility for organic price elections. Below is the FY 2021 report from the USDA agencies in fulfillment of Congress' directive.

### **AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE**

AMS is currently engaged in a number of key activities to support organic production and market data activities, as required by the Act. Key among these is the collection and distribution of market information for organic and conventionally produced agricultural products. Each business day, AMS Market News reporters collect price, demand, and movement information and make it available online at no cost to ensure market transparency and assist in the marketing and distribution of agricultural commodities.

Market News data and reports provide farmers, producers, and other agriculture businesses the information they need to evaluate market conditions, identify trends, make purchasing decisions, monitor price patterns, and accurately assess movement.

#### **Collaboration with other USDA Agencies**

AMS continues to collaborate with other USDA agencies, including RMA, NASS, and ERS, to inform the development and organic data that it has available. AMS previously funded a survey conducted by NASS that resulted in more than 5,000 organic stakeholder responses. Based on analysis of the survey results, fruit and vegetable commodities were categorized as either an opportunity for expanded coverage (i.e., reports do not exist or need expansion) or as an opportunity for outreach (i.e., coverage exists already but may not be well known). AMS identified commodities for which conventional reports are currently produced so that existing industry points of contacts could potentially provide organic reporting, as well. In doing so, AMS found that the top 25 most requested organic fruit and vegetable commodities are already covered at one or more

levels of reporting. In addition, the majority of opportunities for expansion lie at the shipping point office level, where both movement and Free on Board pricing are reported as the wholesale markets, and retail advertisements are well covered.

## **Outreach and Engagement**

AMS continues to expand its outreach and educational efforts to the organic sector to promote the availability and usage of the existing market information and resources, identify new data needs, and build stronger relationships with stakeholders. In response to feedback received from stakeholders regarding insufficient information on organic markets, AMS will conduct a gap analysis to identify the market information needs of organic stakeholders. The results of the gap analysis will inform the development of future data initiatives.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic prevented AMS from participating in many trade shows, conferences, and similar events, Market News pivoted to focus on direct information exchange (e.g., communicating one-on-one with producers about their organic data needs) and to virtual outreach opportunities. Each of the outreach and educational efforts highlighted existing organic market data and demonstrated best practices for identifying, analyzing, and using data. The agency will continue to strengthen its outreach activities and educational efforts as a key part of its customer service and product delivery strategies.

These activities included:

- **Webinars.** AMS conducted webinars for hundreds of participants from industry, associations, non-governmental organizations, and more. The webinars were designed to raise awareness of the organic information available from Market News and provide practical tips on how to use the online reporting tools. Examples include:
  - Detailed highlights of the various organic markets and market levels covered by AMS Market News;
  - Examples of customer reports as generated by the customer and specific to their needs;
  - Demonstrations of key tools available to the public, such as the Custom Average Pricing Tool ; and
  - Question and answer sessions ensure that participants are fully versed in how best to use the market reports and information available.
- **Publications, Blogs.** AMS used online tools such as articles and blogs to feature organic information available from Market News. Examples include:
  - Local and Organic Food Shopping-Finding the Best Price Blog
  - USDA Market News Organic Reporting Overview
- **Stakeholder Groups.** AMS previously worked actively to increase engagement with internal USDA and external organic stakeholder groups to increase the impact and effectiveness of its outreach and educational efforts. There were no significant events held in 2020.

In addition to the industry outreach above, AMS has worked closely with Federal and State agencies to improve data availability to the organic sector. Key achievements include:

- AMS partnered with State Departments of Agriculture to report local and regional markets through 28 federal-state cooperative agreements. Capitalizing on these existing agreements, AMS reported local commodities sold at 40 farmers markets throughout the U.S. that were compiled into 11 Farmers Market reports by the end of Fiscal Year 2020. The State Departments of Agriculture also networked with numerous school districts across four major states in the development of four Farm to School reports, and a substantial number of independent farmers and ranchers for the development of 12 direct-to-consumer reports (direct from farm to household, local retailer, or restaurant) on both a state and national basis. These reports cover more than 160 commodities including organic dairy products, meats, eggs, nuts, herbs, fruits, and vegetables.
- AMS worked closely with the U.S. International Trade Commission to identify priority requests for Harmonized Tariff Codes (HTS) on imported agricultural commodities. In particular, AMS worked with the Texas International Produce Association and counterparts in Canada to request 32 additional codes for tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, roma tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, Bell peppers, zucchini squash, yellow straightneck squash, other squash. The addition of these HTS codes will allow the U.S. industry to better understand which specific varieties are being imported and at specific volumes. This information provides U.S. producers of organic products with a more competitive position in the marketplace by allowing them to make more informed production and marketing decisions.

### **Current and Planned Technological Enhancements**

AMS continues to expand the reporting portal launched in 2018 to improve the quality, customization, and accessibility of our data. The public facing site, *My Market News*, provides data users greater access to market intelligence through a searchable database with the ability to create and download custom reports and historical data sets. Customers can also utilize the built-in application programming interface to customize and download larger datasets that, for many users, seamlessly integrate into their own analysis systems.

This new system provides functionality for AMS to publish organic Market News data for any commodity in the system when that information is available. This system continues to grow as new commodities, reports and data sets are added to it each year.

The Marketing Analysis & Reporting Services system (MARS) also provided an opportunity for AMS to explore the use of other media technologies to expand outreach. In late 2020, AMS began the development of a new mobile application to provide users, including those of organic information, instant access to AMS Market News reports on their mobile devices. The App feature highlighting organic reports is expected to be launched in 2022. This will provide a valuable resource for small to mid-sized organic producers to easily monitor current organic market information literally at their fingertips.

In 2020, AMS provided users of organic market information easier access to Market News reports covering all organic commodities by posting them on a specific organic section on the AMS Market News website so users are fully aware of all information related to organic markets. This allows users to more quickly identify the information they need to effectively analyze and respond to current market conditions.

Due to technological improvements in trade data systems, critical data on organic commodity import volumes and prices is becoming more available. Beginning in January 2020, AMS transitioned its specialty crops market information to the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) database as the primary import information data source covering nearly all ports and points of entry. ACE data reflects actual volumes of specialty crops imports as identified by HTS codes.

As a result of this transition:

- Imports are now reported on a daily instead of a weekly basis.
- Organic imports are now being reported as they are identified in ACE with HTS codes.
- Import information is more current and less subject to revision.

AMS has been working closely with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and various industry groups in identifying and requesting new organic HTS codes to further refine its market reporting information. Since 2021, 26 new organic fruit and vegetable organic HTS codes have been created. AMS continues to work with various interested parties to identify the next commodities that will be submitted to the International Trade Commission 484(f) Committee in March of 2023 for consideration.

### **Commodity-Focused Activities**

**Dairy:** AMS expanded the scope and magnitude of organic dairy-related data made available to producers, processors, consumers, the agricultural lending sector, consultants, and the media. AMS releases four biweekly reports that contain varied organic dairy data. As of December 2020, retail print advertised pricing and advertising intensity of organic dairy products are collected and disseminated for 10 products across 21 package sizes. This data represents advertisements of nearly 150 national and regional retailers, comprising more than 23,000 individual stores.

During 2021, changes to organic retail packaging began emerging in retail ads. Innovations in organic retail package sizes, such as 6-ounce packages for organic cheese and 14-ounce packages for organic ice cream, were appearing regularly in retail grocer ads. Based on these market changes, AMS identified these changes as future enhancements for the retail organic data collection, along with updated packaging attributes for butter, cheese, cottage cheese, cream cheese, ice cream, and sour cream. When the updated attributes are available in MARS, more organic retail data will be included in the weekly dairy retail report.

Further, AMS launched the monthly Direct to Consumer Organic Dairy Products Prices report. This report initially covered organic butter and organic varietal cheeses available from farmsteads

and online. The report was expanded in 2020 by adding half gallon organic milk prices.

**Cotton:** AMS currently issues an Annual Organic Cotton Market Summary. This report recaps the volume of production and prices for both ginned cotton lint and cottonseed. Additional organic information, when available, is included in the Weekly Cotton Market Review.

**Livestock, Poultry, and Grain:** AMS continues to expand its market coverage of organic poultry and egg commodities to include additional production data and wholesale and retail market prices. AMS publishes two comprehensive market reports on a weekly basis that capture information for information about organic eggs: 1) Organic Layer Flock, and 2) Egg Production Estimates.

A primary challenge to expanding the volume for organic eggs and organic meat captured by AMS reports is lack of industry participation. Because much of the organic egg, meat, and poultry supply is directly contracted, market participants do not perceive a benefit to sharing price/volume information with AMS. To address these concerns, AMS will work to better understand the extent to which organic meat, poultry, and eggs are traded off commodity prices and engage directly with producers to determine whether any concerns about sharing information (e.g., confidentiality) can be mitigated. In the coming year, AMS will also identify opportunities to report on a broader base of consumer meat, poultry, and egg products, such as gathering retail features which is done directly by AMS market reporters. AMS also publishes a weekly feature “Egg Markets Overview” that expands our traditional price and volume offerings. In this report, which discusses organic egg trade alongside traditional commodity activity, provides context for readers that includes market activity, promotions, pressure from inputs, and related factors all in one comprehensive spot.

As discussed, AMS also understands that capturing trade at Farmers Markets and other venues for local trade is increasingly relevant for meat and poultry products. Continued partnerships with State Departments of Agriculture will be critical to AMS’s success here, as these entities are most familiar with trade in their area and can report prices/volume most efficiently.

Underpinning organic livestock and poultry production is the availability of organic feedstuffs. AMS provides organic market information on important feed and food grade grains and feedstuffs, including organic corn, soybeans, soybean meal, soybean oil, beans, peas, oats, barley, wheat, rye, and hay. In 2020-2021, AMS expanded its market coverage by partnering with additional organic grain and feedstuff producers for a total of 350 by the end of the year.

**Specialty Crops:** AMS has grown its organic reporting in the specialty crops sector to include more products, more market coverage, and volume of movement information. In 2021, AMS reported approximately 133 organic items, with markets reported at three levels: retail, wholesale, and shipping point. AMS also tracks volume of movement, which includes domestic shipments, crossings from Mexico and Canada, and imports from other countries. One area that has especially good coverage of organic products is at the retail level in the National Retail Report - Specialty Crops. In this report, AMS tracks and reports weekly advertised specials at major supermarkets across the nation and the report covers a wide portion of the sector. During 2021, AMS expanded coverage of this report to more than 330 chain grocery stores, with 29,200 individual stores. AMS

captured data for thousands of advertised items with nearly 20 percent of the ads featuring organic specialty crops.

## **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)**

### **2021 Organic Survey**

The 2021 Organic Survey is currently being conducted by NASS, in conjunction with USDA's RMA. The primary purpose of the survey is to collect acreage, production, and sales data for a variety of organic crop and livestock commodities at the commodity level. Other information gathered included marketing and agricultural practices, as well as insurance and production expenses. Data will be provided for certified organic farms, organic farms exempt from certification, and farms transitioning to certified organic. Results from the 2021 Organic Survey are scheduled for release in December 2022.

### **2022 Census of Agriculture**

Data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture will begin with the initial mailing in December 2022. Data collection activities will continue in 2024, with final results released in February 2024. The report form for the 2022 Census of Agriculture will include questions asking the respondents to self-identify if they produced organic products according to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) standards or have acres transitioning to USDA organic production. If so, the respondent could identify whether they had certified organic production, were exempt from certification, had acres transitioning to certification, or had production according to USDA organic standards but were not certified or exempt. Then the respondent was asked to report the value of USDA organic certified or exempt organically produced commodities sold from the operation in 2022.

All of the results from the 2017 Census of Agriculture are available online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2017/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2017/). Many tables in the Volume 1 publication address organic value, such as table 54, 64-70 at the National level and table 42 at the State level.

### **Future Cooperation for Organic Prices**

NASS recognizes that the need for the value of certified organic production and prices will likely continue in the future. Provided that funds remain available, NASS is committed to working with RMA and other partners to address these and other data needs. In addition, NASS survey data and ERS analyses continue to be among the few sources of available information that USDA's NOP utilizes to estimate potential cost and benefit impacts of policy changes, which is required for significant rulemaking.

### **Oversamples of USDA Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS)**

NASS has previously completed a number of oversamples of organic data in the USDA's ARMS for use by the ERS. ERS uses the ARMS data to compare the costs of production and returns for

organic and conventional production in major crop/livestock sectors and analyzed other economic characteristics of organic agriculture. These oversamples allow ERS to produce side-by-side estimates for organic and conventional corn and dairy production.

The July 2011 publication "Characteristics of Conventional and Organic Apple Production in the United States," examined trends in the U.S. apple sector and compared production and marketing characteristics under organic and conventional farming systems. In September 2014, ERS published "Characteristics and Production Costs of U.S. Corn Farms, Including Organic, 2010," which reported lower costs and higher returns for organic corn producers.

ERS also published several major reports based on ARMS data in 2015 and 2016. In 2019 ERS released the "Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators 2019" report. The chapter on organic agriculture uses data from 2016 Certified Organic Producer survey to show regional concentrations of producers. In addition, the report uses data from the 2014 National Organic Producer Survey to examine use of conservation practices by organic and conventional producers. Additional more recent ERS organic research products can be found at:  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/natural-resources-environment/organic-agriculture>.

## **ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE**

ERS conducts research and analysis and produces data products and topic pages related to all aspects of organic production and consumer purchases. This research has covered organic production and consumption. In addition to the collaboration with NASS detailed above, recent reports on these topics include "[Growing Organic Demand Provides High-Value Opportunities for Many Types of Producers](#)" and "[Changes in Retail Organic Price Premiums from 2004 to 2010](#)".

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

RMA continues to improve crop insurance coverage for organic producers and producers transitioning to organic production. RMA's progress is reported annually in a report to Congress, which can be found at <https://www.rma.usda.gov/Topics/Publications> under the "Organic Crops" subheading.

### **Available Organic Price Elections**

RMA began offering premium organic price elections for specific crops in 2011. This means that, should an organic producer suffer a loss, he or she would receive an insurance payout at the organic price determined by RMA. For the 2021 crop year, RMA offered organic price elections for a total of 84 crops, up from just four crops in 2011.

Crops that do not have an organic price election include the following: alfalfa seed, all other citrus trees, canola, carambola trees, chile peppers, cigar filler tobacco, cigar wrapper tobacco, fire cured tobacco, forage seeding, lemon trees, lime trees, limes, macadamia trees, mango trees, peppers, processing apricots, processing freestone peaches, sugar beets, and tangors. These crops do not currently have an organic price election because either: a) there is no known organic production in

insured areas; b) there is limited production and no available data that meets RMA's data quality requirements; or c) pricing data suggests these organic crops do not receive a premium over conventional products.

### **Contract Price Addendum**

The contract price option was offered beginning with the 2014 crop year and allows organic producers and those transitioning to organic practices who receive a contract price for their crop to get a crop insurance guarantee that is more reflective of the actual value of their crop. The contract price option is available for most crops and allows producers to use their personal contract price as their price election or choose existing crop insurance price elections.

### **RMA Funding of NASS Organic Surveys**

NASS has completed six organic surveys (2008, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2019). RMA has provided funding for three of the six surveys and worked with NASS to improve survey methods and expand data collection to include specific crop types and varieties not listed in previous surveys. RMA also paid for the organic survey being conducted by NASS for the 2021 crop year, with results expected to be delivered in December 2022. This will be the fourth survey funded by RMA. These surveys provide comprehensive organic information and will assist RMA in setting accurate organic price elections.

### **Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)**

The Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) plan of insurance provides a risk management safety net for all commodities produced on the farm under one insurance policy. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), and those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. All certified organic commodities may be insured at their farm-level organic prices provided the farm meets eligibility requirements.

### **New Policy Development**

In 2020, RMA finalized development of and implemented a new plan of insurance, Production and Revenue History (PRH), which is designed to better handle commodities with less data, including organic agriculture. PRH uses the producer's personal production and revenue history to establish a yield-based guarantee valued at what the producer has historically been able to obtain for their production. In so doing, PRH overcomes the lack of price data that hinders RMA's ability to improve and expand organic price elections.

In addition, RMA developed and implemented the Micro Farm Provisions as part of the WFRP plan of insurance for the 2022 policy year. The Micro Farm Provisions is designed for small, diverse farms that sell locally, with up to \$100,000 in approved revenue. The policy simplifies recordkeeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products; this was a key request from stakeholders to make crop insurance more useful to smaller growers.

## **Organic Certification Flexibilities**

Prior to 2020, crop insurance required producers with certified organic acreage, or acreage in transition to organic, to have written certification or written documentation from a certifying agent showing an organic plan is in effect for the acreage by the acreage reporting date. The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for growers to meet with certifying agents and obtain signatures by these deadlines. In response, RMA granted the ability to report acreage as certified organic, or as acreage in transition to organic, when they certify they have requested a written certification or other written documentation from a certifying agent on or before the acreage reporting date. In 2021, RMA made this change permanent, recognizing that it is helpful for both organic producers and certifying agencies because organic certification does not necessarily happen in unison with crop insurance dates and cycles.