



EESI

Environmental and
Energy Study Institute



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Grow Organic
The Climate, Health, and
Economic Case for Expanding
Organic Agriculture

Thursday, March 23, 2023

About EESI



Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies

Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making

Sustainable Solutions

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.

Polycymaker Education

Briefings and Webcasts



Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

Climate Change Solutions



Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs



Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

Social Media (@EESIOnline)



Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube



Grow Organic



The Climate, Health, & Economic Case
for Expanding Organic Agriculture



Allison Johnson | NRDC Senior Attorney, Health & Food

Organic Offers Something For Everyone



✓ **Climate**



✓ **Health**



✓ **Economies**

Organic Is a Household Name



82%

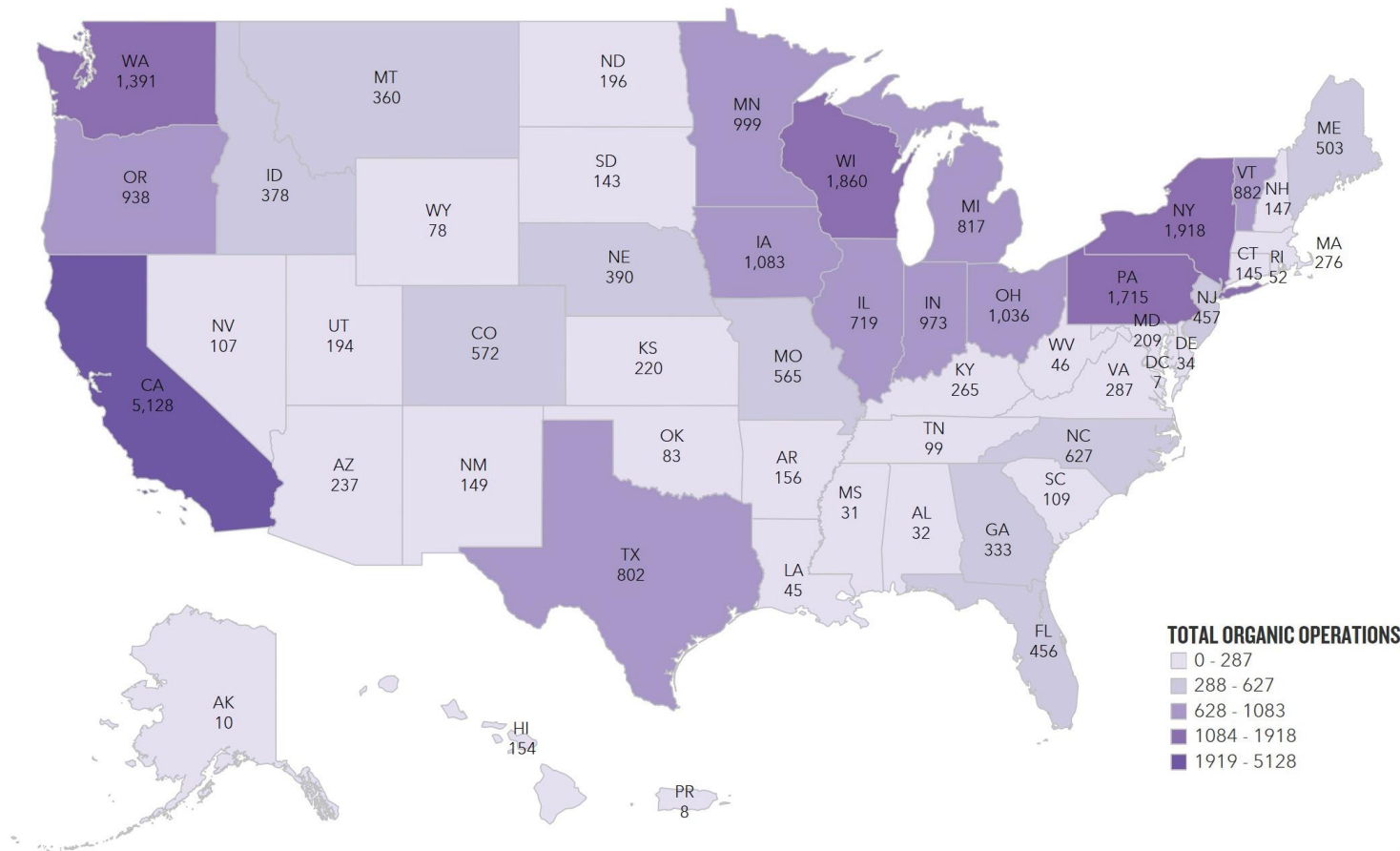


**of households or 4 out
of 5 people buy organic**

Source: Organic Trade Association. "Organic Purchasing," 2016



All U.S. organic operations by state, 2021

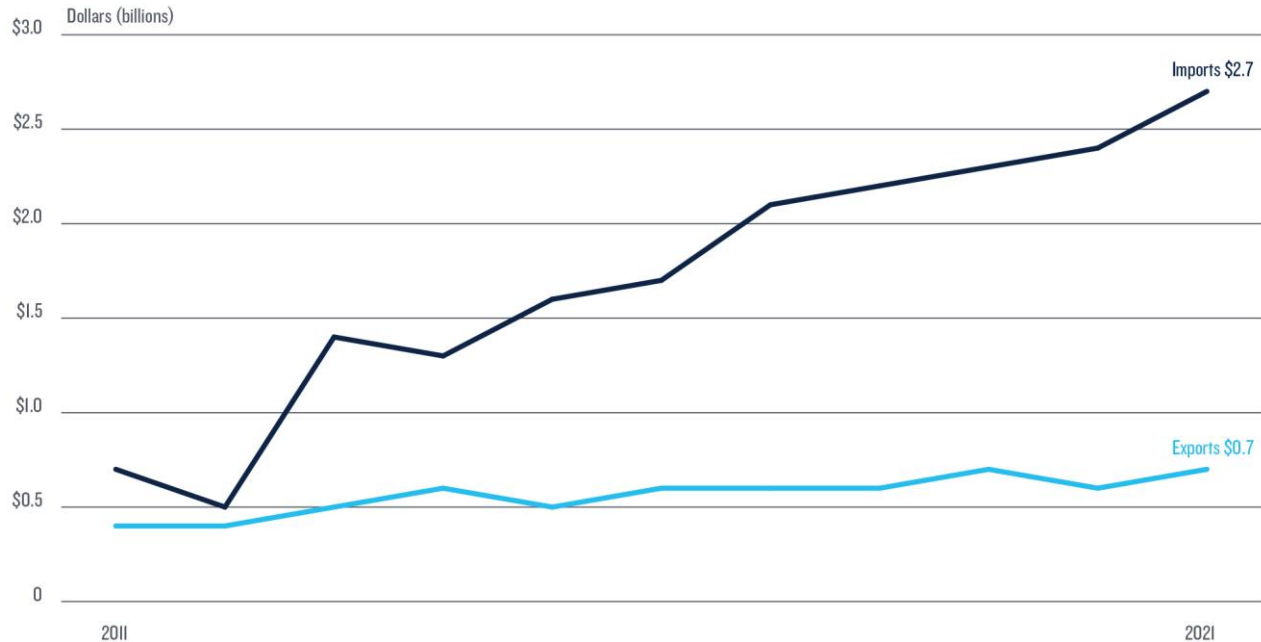


Source: USDA AMS, Organic Integrity Database, 2021 Annual List of Certified Organic Operations



Domestic Demand Exceeds Supply

The United States remains a net importer of organic. The total value of U.S. organic imports exceeded organic exports from 2011–2021



Source: USDA FAS, Global Agricultural Trade System; USDA ERS





**The U.S. has not meaningfully invested
in holistic public policy support for
organic agriculture.**

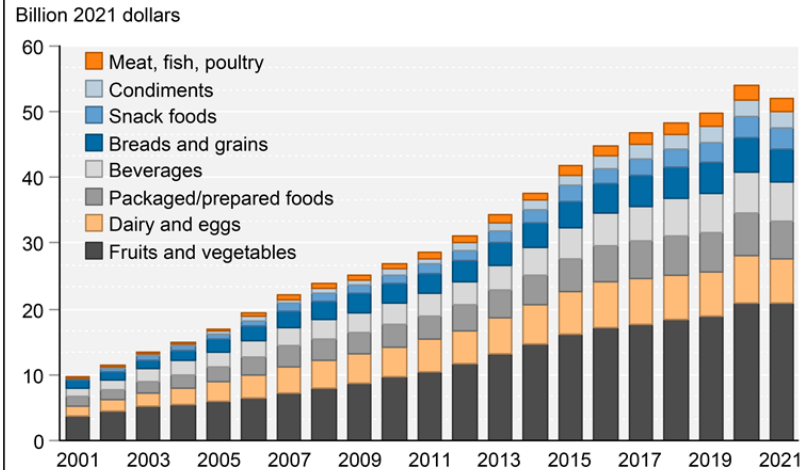
Image Credit: Lance Cheung/USDA

*Grow
Organic*
Identifies
10 Key
Policy
Solutions

1. **Expand organic production by reducing barriers to organic transition**
2. **Ramp up federal resources that promote organic innovation, success, and accessibility**
3. **Ensure racial and Indigenous justice and equitable participation in organic agriculture**
4. **Use true cost accounting to identify agricultural investments that benefit the public**
5. **Create stable organic markets and expand access through public procurement**
6. **Reward organic management and ecosystem services in agricultural policies**
7. **Educate the public about the benefits of organic**
8. **Invest in regional supply chains to meet growing demand for organic**
9. **Strengthen organic rules and enforcement**
10. **Integrate organic throughout public institutions**

Reduce Barriers to Organic Transition

U.S. organic food retail sales by category, 2001–21



Note: Nutrition Business Journal estimates of U.S. organic food sales are typically somewhat lower than Organic Trade Association estimates.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Nutrition Business Journal, 2022. Values are adjusted for inflation (to 2021 dollars) using the CPI-U.

- Make certification affordable
- Provide flexible resources
- Build relevant expertise
- Grow regional supply chains
- Support underserved producers















Dear friend,

This is the most important mac and cheese we've ever made. When you buy this yummy box, you are supporting regenerative farming practices that help protect Mother Earth.

We've partnered with two amazing family farmers in Montana to source the wheat and peas in this pasta. These ingredients are grown with practices that work to pull carbon from the air and store it in the soil, which can help reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. By choosing this pasta, you're supporting a community of family farms working to protect and restore our planet. How cool is that?

Bye for now,
All of us at Annie's

Our two **Montana** Farming Partners



Casey Bailey
Fort Benton, MT



Nate Powell-Palm
Bozeman, MT

Regenerative Practices Include:

- Diverse Crop Rotations
- Cover Crops
- Pollinator Habitats



Learn more at www.annies.com/soilmatters

Annie's
RABBIT OF APPROVAL
ORGANIC

This mac helps protect our planet.

»» FLIP ME OVER TO LEARN HOW ««

Macaroni & Classic Cheddar
WITH
12g PROTEIN*

USDA ORGANIC

INCLUDES PROTEIN FROM PEAS

MACARONI & CHEESE
SEE NUTRITION INFORMATION FOR SODIUM CONTENT

*PER SERVING
NET WT 6 OZ (170 g)













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