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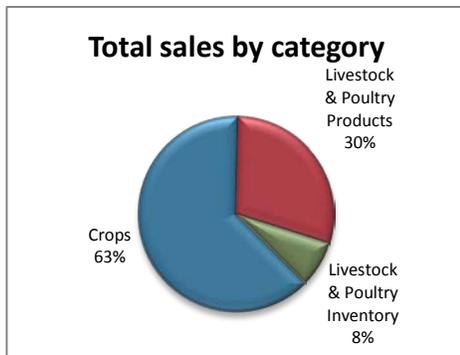


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USDA Releases Results of the 2011 Certified Organic Production Survey

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4, 2012 –U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-certified organic growers in the United States sold more than \$3.5 billion organically grown agricultural commodities in 2011, according to the results of the *2011 Certified Organic Production Survey*, released today by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). NASS conducted the survey for USDA’s Risk Management Agency to help refine federal crop insurance products for organic producers.

“This is the first time we have conducted a survey focused solely on the USDA-certified organic producers,” said Hubert Hamer, Chairperson of NASS’s Agricultural Statistics Board. “With this survey’s results, policymakers will be able to better assess the Federal Crop Insurance program and its impact on the organic industry.”



Mirroring its conventional counterpart, corn leads organic field crops in sales and accounted for more than \$101.5 million in 2011. The only other field crops to have more than \$50 million in sales were alfalfa dry hay and winter wheat, accounting for \$69.5 million and \$54 million in sales respectively.

When it comes to organic field crops acreage, Wisconsin leads the nation with more than 110,000 acres harvested in 2011. Wisconsin is followed by New York, with organic growers harvesting more than 97,000 acres. California closely follows the Empire state growers with more than 91,000 acres of organic field crops harvested in 2011. These top three states illustrate just how geographically diverse organic crop production is in the United States.

In addition to looking at organically produced crops, the survey also gathered information on the organically raised livestock, which accounted for \$1.31 billion in sales in 2011. Organic milk was the top livestock commodity last year, accounting for \$765 million in sales. The other key organic livestock commodities were chicken eggs and broiler chickens, earning \$276 million and \$115 million in sales respectively.

The survey results also include statistics on organically grown fruit and vegetables, value-added products and marketing outlets. The full results of the survey are available online at <http://bit.ly/2011OrganicSurvey>

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NASS provides accurate, timely, useful and objective statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for “NASS Data User Community.”

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