



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
2015 Certified Organic Survey – North Carolina**



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Certified Organic Highlights

The 2015 Certified Organic Survey is a survey of all operations identified as having certified organic production. Certified organic farms must meet the standards set out by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) and be certified compliant by an approved agent of NOP. Results from the survey provide acreage, production, and sales data for a variety of certified organic crops and certified organic livestock.

In 2015, the United States had 12,818 certified organic farms that produced \$6.2 billion in certified organic products. North Carolina had 203 certified organic farms with 28,727 acres of certified land that produced \$82.4 million in certified organic products. Of those farms in North Carolina, 21 percent were certified organic for 10 years or more.

In North Carolina, 157 certified organic farms sold to wholesale markets, 65 farms sold directly to consumers, and 40 farms sold directly to retail markets and institutions. The first point of sales for 80 percent of certified organic farms in North Carolina was within 100 miles of the farm and 29 percent was within 100-499 miles of the farm. Over the next five years, 42 percent of certified organic operations in North Carolina plan to increase certified organic agricultural production.

For more information on the 2015 Certified Organic Survey and related reports, please visit the NASS Organic Agriculture page at: www.nass.usda.gov/organics.

Farms, Land, and Value of Sales on Certified Organic Farms: 2015 and 2014

Geographic area	2015			2014		
	Total certified farms	Total certified acres	Total certified sales (\$1,000)	Total certified farms	Total certified acres	Total certified sales (\$1,000)
United States	12,818	4,361,849	6,163,472	12,634	3,642,933	5,451,377
North Carolina	203	28,727	82,427	200	21,595	66,689

Certified Organic Crops Value of Sales: 2015

Crop	Farms	Value of sales (dollars)
All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown in the open		
United States	2,999	1,361,747,498
North Carolina	84	17,717,494
All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown under protection		
United States	1,059	73,201,940
North Carolina	15	(D)
All other fruits (excludes apples, grapes, all tree nuts, and all berries)		
United States	1,456	262,792,206
North Carolina	1	(D)
All tree nuts		
United States	379	83,982,965
North Carolina	(NDP)	(NDP)
All berries		
United States	1,436	344,634,693
North Carolina	30	3,373,628
All field crops		
United States	4,545	660,044,049
North Carolina	90	34,194,757

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NDP) No data present.

Certified Organic Floriculture Crops, Nursery Crops, Propagative Materials, and Mushrooms Value of Sales: 2015

Crop	Farms	Value of sales (dollars)
Floriculture and bedding crops		
United States	336	22,231,062
North Carolina.....	10	(D)
Nursery crops, including aquatic plants		
United States	108	26,516,551
North Carolina.....	10	144,229
Propagative materials sold		
United States	120	19,912,081
North Carolina.....	2	(D)
Mushrooms		
United States	130	95,543,620
North Carolina.....	5	71,234

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Top Certified Organic Livestock and Poultry Inventory and Sales: 2015

Commodity	Peak inventory		Value of sales	
	Farms	Number	Number	Dollars
Milk cows				
United States	2,282	241,112	47,033	65,361,338
North Carolina.....	9	796	139	191,432
Beef cows				
United States	455	40,600	5,901	8,982,291
North Carolina.....	9	284	52	89,823
Other cattle				
United States	2,753	228,630	169,884	158,251,289
North Carolina.....	14	995	623	804,665
Hogs and pigs				
United States	135	12,358	13,353	5,112,388
North Carolina.....	5	245	485	203,910
Chickens - layers				
United States	730	14,214,364	3,241,756	1,461,403
North Carolina.....	16	389,888	155,712	65,892
Chickens - broilers				
United States	187	9,077,227	47,423,922	420,312,003
North Carolina.....	1	(D)	(D)	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Top Certified Organic Livestock Products and Poultry Products Sales: 2015

Commodity	Farms	Quantity	Dollars
Milk from cows (pounds)			
United States	2,258	3,406,420,618	1,173,503,904
North Carolina.....	9	8,769,947	(D)
Chicken eggs (dozens)			
United States	684	292,481,855	732,037,052
North Carolina.....	16	8,265,851	21,215,327

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Operators on Certified Organic Farms by Years Operating Any Farm: 2015

Geographic area	Operators	Percent of operators by years operating any farm					
		Less than 10 years	10 to 19 years	20 to 29 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 or more years
United States	12,818	32	23	17	16	8	4
North Carolina	203	33	18	14	21	13	1