



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



Southern Region – South Carolina Field Office  
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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. South Carolina had 26 certified organic farms with 2,741 acres of certified land that produced \$10.1 million in certified organic products. Of those farms in South Carolina, 23 percent were certified organic for 10 years or more.

In South Carolina, 14 certified organic farms sold to wholesale markets, 21 farms sold directly to consumers, and 14 farms sold directly to retail markets and institutions. The first point of sales for 92 percent of certified organic farms in South Carolina was within 100 miles of the farm and 23 percent was within 100-499 miles of the farm. Over the next five years, 62 percent of certified organic operations in South 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](http://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
South Carolina .....	26	2,741	10,090	35	2,460	(D)

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

**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
South Carolina .....	13	(D)
All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown under protection		
United States .....	1,059	73,201,940
South Carolina .....	3	(D)
All other fruits (excludes apples, grapes, all tree nuts, and all berries)		
United States .....	1,456	262,792,206
South Carolina .....	2	(D)
All tree nuts		
United States .....	379	83,982,965
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)
All berries		
United States .....	1,436	344,634,693
South Carolina .....	10	303,648
All field crops		
United States .....	4,545	660,044,049
South Carolina .....	3	4,680

(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
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)
Nursery crops, including aquatic plants		
United States .....	108	26,516,551
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)
Propagative materials sold		
United States .....	120	19,912,081
South Carolina .....	1	(D)
Mushrooms		
United States .....	130	95,543,620
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)

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

**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
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)
Beef cows				
United States .....	455	40,600	5,901	8,982,291
South Carolina .....	3	130	25	38,975
Other cattle				
United States .....	2,753	228,630	169,884	158,251,289
South Carolina .....	3	142	46	89,000
Hogs and pigs				
United States .....	135	12,358	13,353	5,112,388
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)
Chickens - layers				
United States .....	730	14,214,364	3,241,756	1,461,403
South Carolina .....	1	(D)	(NDP)	(NDP)
Chickens - broilers				
United States .....	187	9,077,227	47,423,922	420,312,003
South Carolina .....	1	(D)	(D)	(D)

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

**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
South Carolina .....	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)
Chicken eggs (dozens)			
United States .....	684	292,481,855	732,037,052
South Carolina .....	1	(D)	(D)

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

**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
South Carolina .....	26	65	12	(NDP)	8	8	8

(NDP) No data present.