



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
**Southern Region News Release**



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Cooperating with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and South Carolina Department of Agriculture  
Southern Regional Field Office · 355 East Hancock Avenue, Suite 100 · Athens, GA 30601 · (706) 546-2236  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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September 16, 2016

Media Contact: Jim Ewing

## **Certified Organic Sales Production Are Up across the Southern Region**

Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the results of the 2015 Certified Organic Survey, which show that 12,818 certified organic farms in the United States sold a total of \$6.2 billion in organic products in 2015, up 13 percent from \$5.5 billion in 2014.

"Producers who responded to the 2015 Certified Organic Survey in the Southern region provided valuable information that will assist in the development of appropriate risk management programs designed to help organic producers," said Jim Ewing, Southern Region Director.

Across the Southern Region the value of organic production sales reached nearly \$95 million in sales across the four States. Florida continues to lead the Southern Region in the number of certified organic farms who sold nearly \$63 million in organic products. Georgia organic producers sold almost \$20 million of organic production with South Carolina organic sales slightly over \$10 million. Alabama value of sales were over \$1.5 million and is up from 2014.

Sales of certified vegetables, non-citrus fruit, and nuts dominated the type of organic products sold across the region. The marketing outlets used by organic producers in the South followed the National trends identified where most growers using multiple outlets and sold locally – within 100 miles of the farms.

Survey results are available at [www.nass.usda.gov/organics](http://www.nass.usda.gov/organics) or the Quick Stats database at <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

**NOTE:** The 2015 Certified Organic Survey is a census 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. The 2014 Organic Survey included farms exempt from certification and those transitioning to certification and may not be comparable to the 2015 data.