



## 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Data

### Survey Background

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) collected acreage and livestock data for years 2014 and 2015 from USDA-accredited organic certifying agents in the United States. Previously, USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) published data from the USDA-accredited organic certifiers. Beginning in 2017, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program (AMS NOP) will be responsible for certified organic acreage and livestock reporting from their Organic INTEGRITY Database.

The NASS 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Survey includes data on certified crops and livestock operations. It does not include data from organic handlers, processors, wild crops operations, or public AUM land. Information published includes the number of certified organic operations along with the number of acres certified for various crops, and the reported livestock and poultry certified as organic.

### Data Comparability

**NASS and AMS NOP Data** – The NASS 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Survey was voluntary and a response was not obtained from 100% of the certifiers. Some information received from certifiers was not complete. Livestock and poultry data was often less complete, partially due to the nature of production practices. AMS NOP data is obtained via mandatory and regulated reporting encompassing all certified farms and businesses. Data users should account for this difference when reviewing NASS and AMS NOP data.

**Organic Certifier Data and NASS Organic Producer Survey/Census Data** - The 2014 and 2015 Organic Certifier Survey data is a tabulation of USDA-accredited organic certifiers' acreage and livestock data received. The data underwent editing, summarization, and disclosure programming prior to publishing. The 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2015 organic producer surveys as well as the 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture collected and published data on organic operations which had production in the reference year. The data from these programs were adjusted for non-response, misclassification, and coverage. Therefore, the certifier survey data and producer survey/census data are not comparable and data users should account for these differences when reviewing the data. Data users should allow for differences when comparing the data between datasets including reference periods, organic definitions, and differing survey methodologies.

### Data Confidentiality

The information provided is used for statistical purposes only. Responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about person or operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey was conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws.

### Abbreviations and Symbols

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero
- (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
- (NA) Not available.

**Table 1. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Crops, United States: 2015 and 2014**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

<b>United States</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Operations <sup>1</sup>	14,861	13,174
Operations (non-response count) <sup>2</sup>	10	108
	(acres)	(acres)
Acres reported in the operation <sup>3</sup>	5,336,058	4,081,903
Pasture and rangeland	2,160,764	1,467,874
Barley	57,961	63,775
Corn for grain or silage	262,089	209,659
Oats	63,689	56,215
Soybeans	140,345	100,952
Wheat, all	393,281	319,874
Other field crops	446,073	336,943
Forage crops <sup>4</sup>	707,108	641,404
Tomatoes	12,819	7,551
Other vegetables	216,622	179,522
Unclassified vegetables and horticulture	21,278	16,904
Grapes	28,719	29,196
Berries	22,644	31,506
Non-citrus fruit	44,121	42,102
Citrus fruit	9,927	8,665
Other fruit	5,719	6,799
Tree nuts	21,811	20,326
Nursery and greenhouse	4,302	4,978
Woodland and idle land	506,949	401,850
Unclassified land use	395,301	297,047

1/ United States operation count includes reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents and the the operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database for the non-response certifiers.

2/ Non-response operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database at the U.S. level.

3/ Land use categories do not sum to total reported acres in the operation due to multiple cropping practices or multiple uses.

4/ Forage crops do not include corn or sorghum for silage.

**Table 2. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data: Land Use, by State: 2015**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Geographic area	Operations	Total acres <sup>1</sup>	Pasture and rangeland (acres)	Sum of crops (acres)	Woodland and idle land (acres)	Unclassified (acres)
United States <sup>2</sup>	14,861	5,336,058	2,160,764	2,458,509	506,949	395,301
Alabama	14	6,742	(D)	(D)	(D)	2,457
Alaska	9	695,572	(D)	94	(D)	(D)
Arizona <sup>3</sup>	58	27,363	(D)	18,423	(D)	3,191
Arkansas	56	22,188	(D)	(D)	(D)	841
California <sup>3</sup>	2,500	1,208,842	692,338	378,017	176,293	50,537
Colorado	208	212,091	76,029	87,995	36,954	16,917
Connecticut	48	930	(D)	714	179	(D)
Delaware	1	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-
Florida	185	35,459	(D)	31,807	(D)	3,116
Georgia	59	9,812	(D)	7,746	(D)	473
Hawaii	100	(D)	928	5,067	241	(D)
Idaho	183	134,460	46,111	86,829	674	944
Illinois	218	33,605	2,959	27,275	1,357	2,376
Indiana	397	33,653	6,920	18,547	1,353	7,108
Iowa	840	112,785	14,398	90,310	2,653	6,078
Kansas	99	36,980	3,393	25,908	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	132	12,029	1,681	8,882	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	13	1,960	10	(D)	-	(D)
Maine	531	51,280	7,372	18,224	19,654	9,017
Maryland	78	11,624	1,911	6,924	619	2,997
Massachusetts	133	7,218	1,577	4,627	949	228
Michigan	483	83,619	5,592	66,369	3,220	8,878
Minnesota	659	169,094	21,086	125,780	6,628	16,844
Mississippi	21	4,143	(D)	2,923	(D)	-
Missouri	308	52,913	18,237	26,885	4,473	4,840
Montana	194	271,056	93,366	148,465	29,753	6,770
Nebraska	178	112,151	30,960	61,438	11,999	11,407
Nevada	31	13,866	(D)	9,256	(D)	-
New Hampshire	139	9,561	33	185	4,546	4,797
New Jersey	72	2,146	328	1,719	249	-
New Mexico	103	57,214	31,962	22,761	876	3,250
New York	845	185,080	30,682	121,465	21,348	12,546
North Carolina	180	71,993	2,294	70,136	1,246	2,867
North Dakota	131	105,948	7,028	90,093	(D)	(D)
Ohio	608	79,763	16,473	53,022	4,191	6,580
Oklahoma	47	12,489	(D)	7,873	-	(D)
Oregon	456	223,020	106,354	90,358	29,909	9,576
Pennsylvania	836	95,601	22,584	65,392	3,708	5,155
Rhode Island	19	123	(D)	88	13	(D)
South Carolina	47	9,918	-	(D)	(D)	2,702
South Dakota	99	80,789	13,710	62,103	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	18	1,326	276	950	30	85
Texas <sup>3</sup>	420	304,963	23,831	178,883	44,168	92,033
Utah	41	69,461	7,441	50,622	(D)	(D)
Vermont	493	117,274	24,538	54,519	34,998	5,136
Virginia	77	24,786	6,489	16,090	480	1,762
Washington	726	95,282	9,942	73,972	(D)	(D)
West Virginia	9	2,300	1,084	916	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	1,684	280,612	56,514	159,429	11,087	55,646
Wyoming	65	136,231	59,754	49,209	11,984	18,251
Non-response <sup>4</sup>	10	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

1/ The four categories may not add to total acres since acres in sum of crops column includes double cropping or multi uses.

2/ United States operation count includes reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents and the operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database for the non-response certifiers.

3/ Non-response certifying agents certify operations in AZ, CA, and TX. Data may be incomplete in these states.

4/ Non-response certifier operation count from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY Database at the U.S. level.

**Table 3. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Land Use, by State: 2014**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Geographic area	Operations	Total acres <sup>1</sup>	Pasture and rangeland (acres)	Sum of crops (acres)	Woodland and idle land (acres)	Unclassified (acres)
United States <sup>2</sup>	13,174	4,081,903	1,467,874	2,076,372	401,850	297,047
Alabama	7	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	2,348
Alaska	23	55,805	(D)	104	(D)	(D)
Arizona <sup>3</sup>	51	35,355	(D)	26,207	(D)	2,387
Arkansas	31	4,939	(D)	4,137	(D)	709
California <sup>3</sup>	2,318	1,036,666	592,305	324,707	154,769	44,970
Colorado	168	168,296	63,955	61,552	27,093	19,532
Connecticut	44	804	51	655	(D)	(D)
Delaware	1	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-
Florida	152	37,084	(D)	34,525	(D)	1,459
Georgia	49	6,892	(D)	5,135	(D)	597
Hawaii	97	13,150	4,669	7,726	215	3,018
Idaho	160	135,207	71,368	62,347	1,098	465
Illinois	199	25,263	2,438	20,486	761	1,721
Indiana	288	23,304	5,328	13,209	568	4,262
Iowa	696	98,091	12,148	77,993	2,954	6,400
Kansas	86	26,140	(D)	17,234	(D)	1,914
Kentucky	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Louisiana	10	1,903	5	49	.	1,849
Maine	466	46,249	5,964	17,504	13,959	10,766
Maryland	76	11,712	2,048	7,557	1,622	1,905
Massachusetts	139	6,631	1,448	4,624	211	343
Michigan	414	75,222	5,390	62,334	1,969	6,123
Minnesota	584	137,943	18,915	100,130	6,636	14,209
Mississippi	11	21	(D)	(D)	-	-
Missouri	229	40,780	11,583	25,287	1,042	3,302
Montana	164	259,375	107,449	133,109	30,596	1,027
Nebraska	165	139,396	47,870	71,434	5,734	14,861
Nevada	31	17,874	(D)	10,271	(D)	-
New Hampshire	153	9,825	(D)	(D)	4,122	5,573
New Jersey	68	2,107	(D)	1,588	(D)	-
New Mexico	99	59,372	42,427	17,048	642	1,046
New York	750	154,082	30,720	100,059	13,177	10,547
North Carolina	101	18,398	1,650	15,533	1,058	375
North Dakota	119	103,142	7,778	89,025	(D)	(D)
Ohio	552	73,182	15,076	50,086	2,180	6,362
Oklahoma	37	12,766	(D)	(D)	-	607
Oregon	513	221,256	104,999	95,835	26,621	4,446
Pennsylvania	753	90,187	23,166	62,666	2,713	2,853
Rhode Island	15	185	(D)	123	32	(D)
South Carolina	27	2,602	-	(D)	-	(D)
South Dakota	87	96,557	33,412	56,352	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	14	880	(D)	562	(D)	-
Texas <sup>3</sup>	333	194,850	17,372	128,543	27,253	47,894
Utah	37	57,126	5,205	44,937	(D)	(D)
Vermont	492	98,019	24,054	51,403	20,309	2,573
Virginia	51	20,627	6,199	12,865	32	1,545
Washington	704	89,930	9,371	76,204	4,286	159
West Virginia	10	(D)	(D)	1,076	101	(D)
Wisconsin	1,435	231,305	46,782	132,059	9,800	45,592
Wyoming	57	132,969	71,105	39,867	7,762	17,299
Non-response <sup>4</sup>	108	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

1/ The four categories may not add to total acres since acres in sum of crops column includes double cropping or multi uses.

2/ United States operation count includes reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents and the operation counts from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY database for the non-response certifiers.

3/ Non-response certifying agents certify operations in AZ, CA, and TX. Data may be incomplete in these states.

4/ Non-response certifier operation count from the USDA Organic INTEGRITY Database at the U.S. level.

**Table 4. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Livestock and Poultry, United States: 2015 and 2014**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

<b>United States</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Operations <sup>1</sup>	2,001	1,401
	(number)	(number)
Total livestock and poultry	22,389,214	16,509,520
Cattle	334,514	233,113
Hogs	4,740	2,956
Sheep	5,345	4,625
Goats	1,313	1,007
Other livestock	4,103	3,143
Chickens	20,826,831	15,375,993
Turkeys	968,402	606,138
Other poultry	243,966	282,545

1/ United States operation count is a sum of reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents.

Non-response operation count cannot be determined due to certification being based on acreage.

**Table 5. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Livestock and Poultry, by State: 2015**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Geographic area	Operations	Total livestock (number)
United States	2,001	22,389,214
Alabama	1	(D)
Alaska	1	(D)
Arizona	2	(D)
Arkansas	4	(D)
California	93	12,569,340
Colorado	14	(D)
Connecticut	3	755
Delaware	-	-
Florida	-	-
Georgia	2	(D)
Hawaii	6	(D)
Idaho	38	(D)
Illinois	21	154,190
Indiana	10	(D)
Iowa	84	2,393,808
Kansas	7	(D)
Kentucky	35	11,116
Louisiana	10	2,869
Maine	265	47,731
Maryland	17	3,275
Massachusetts	24	4,380
Michigan	17	(D)
Minnesota	83	24,284
Mississippi	17	(D)
Missouri	7	452
Montana	34	(D)
Nebraska	9	2,375
Nevada	-	-
New Hampshire	31	268,591
New Jersey	1	(D)
New Mexico	11	(D)
New York	420	81,167
North Carolina	10	2,725
North Dakota	6	1,844
Ohio	3	(D)
Oklahoma	3	992
Oregon	64	(D)
Pennsylvania	218	738,271
Rhode Island	1	(D)
South Carolina	2	(D)
South Dakota	8	1,938
Tennessee	2	(D)
Texas	15	73,230
Utah	5	(D)
Vermont	182	23,404
Virginia	4	(D)
Washington	87	1,444,178
West Virginia	-	-
Wisconsin	120	260,649
Wyoming	4	664

1/ United States operation count is a sum of reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents.

Non-response operation count cannot be determined due to certification being based on acreage.

**Table 6. USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents' Certified Organic Data, Livestock and Poultry, by State: 2014**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Geographic area	Operations	Total livestock (number)
United States	1,401	16,509,520
Alabama	-	-
Alaska	1	(D)
Arizona	1	(D)
Arkansas	1	(D)
California	84	11,445,565
Colorado	11	(D)
Connecticut	2	(D)
Delaware	-	-
Florida	1	(D)
Georgia	1	(D)
Hawaii	6	(D)
Idaho	31	(D)
Illinois	19	111,965
Indiana	11	(D)
Iowa	60	256,223
Kansas	7	817
Kentucky	(NA)	(NA)
Louisiana	6	2,274
Maine	200	37,869
Maryland	18	3,971
Massachusetts	22	3,111
Michigan	19	(D)
Minnesota	70	26,091
Mississippi	7	(D)
Missouri	10	1,576
Montana	17	(D)
Nebraska	12	3,021
Nevada	-	-
New Hampshire	34	251,450
New Jersey	1	(D)
New Mexico	8	(D)
New York	48	14,204
North Carolina	6	1,221
North Dakota	6	1,212
Ohio	1	(D)
Oklahoma	2	(D)
Oregon	60	(D)
Pennsylvania	179	765,107
Rhode Island	-	-
South Carolina	2	(D)
South Dakota	7	2,171
Tennessee	2	(D)
Texas	10	51,466
Utah	2	(D)
Vermont	214	(D)
Virginia	1	(D)
Washington	87	1,385,352
West Virginia	-	-
Wisconsin	113	238,006
Wyoming	1	(D)

1/ United States operation count is a sum of reports provided by the USDA-accredited certifying agents.

Non-response operation count cannot be determined due to certification being based on acreage.