



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

California's State Organic Program

PROVIDING VALUE TO GROWERS, CONSUMERS & INDUSTRY

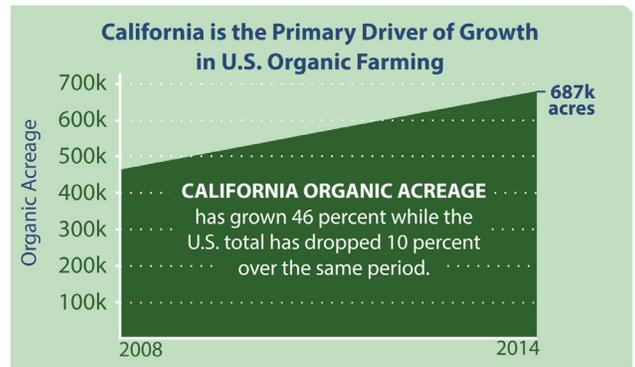
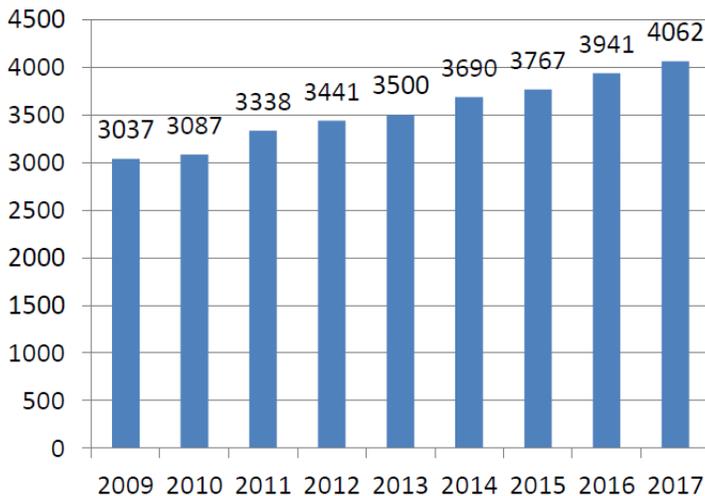


California is the only state with its own organic program.

Organic agriculture in California topped \$2.9 billion in value in 2017, accounting for more than 40 percent of all organic production in the country. Our State Organic Program (SOP) goes above and beyond to ensure the integrity of "organic" by registering producers, handlers, processors, and wholesalers.

- California was one of the first states to regulate organic products via the 1979 Organic Food Act.
- The California Organic Foods Act of 1990 (COFA) established standards for organic food production and sales in California, and the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) authorized USDA to establish the National Organic Program (NOP).
- The NOP fully implemented federal organic regulations in 2002. The California Organic Products Act of 2003 (COPA) revised the COFA to be applied in conjunction with the NOP standards and regulations. The COPA was amended and renamed the California Organic Food and Farming Act in 2017.
- Organic producers, handlers, processors, and wholesalers of organic products, register with the SOP.
- The SOP verifies Registrants' compliance with the organic program from production to the point of sale.
- Under the SOP, CDFA contracts with 53 County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) for enforcement and compliance activities.

Steady Growth: TOTAL REGISTRANTS IN CALIFORNIA'S SOP



The State Organic Program helps ensure that California families are consuming agricultural products that meet state and federal organic standards.

- The SOP is responsible for handling complaints against organic operations operating in California.
- The SOP works in conjunction with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), for additional enforcement and compliance activities.
- CDFA collaborates with 30 USDA Accredited Certifying Agencies (ACAs) operating in California for enforcement activities.
- Through the federal Cost Share Program, CDFA distributes funds from the USDA to operations that have been certified organic by a USDA accredited certifier. For the 2015/16 federal fiscal year (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016), CDFA reimbursed a total of \$1,492,408 to 1,917 certified organic operations.
- The total number of registered organic operations continues to grow. From 2010 to 2017 the total number of registered organic operations increased by 34 percent.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There were 459 new organic registrants in 2017.
- Veterans are exempt from paying registration fees.
- The SOP also benefits the public. By working to confirm products being sold are organic, the SOP is helping ensure that families are consuming agricultural products that meet state and federal organic standards.

Follow the Money

WHERE DO ORGANIC REGISTRATION FEES GO?

- \$1.5 million in SOP fees supported \$2.9 billion in organic sales.**
- Provided workshops throughout California**
- Performed 1,389 inspections of organic operations including production sites, handling facilities, farmers' markets, retail stores and roadside stands**
- Collected 312 samples (624 lbs) for pesticide residue analysis**
- Conducted 100 complaint investigations**
- Processed appeals and provided due process**
- Facilitated the sale of organic products**

(Fiscal year 2016/17 data)

To learn more about the SOP visit us at:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&_c/organic.html

