



ORGANIC FARMING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ORGANIC RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2010 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE

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The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is a grower-directed non-profit national organization. The OFRF mission includes education and policy analysis for increased public support of organic agriculture. Improving the performance and increasing the presence of organic agriculture to deliver the economic, environmental, and social benefits that organic systems provide is the goal of our policy recommendations. OFRF makes the following recommendations for the FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations conference.

ORGANIC TRANSITION RESEARCH PROGRAM (ORG) – \$5 MILLION

OFRF recommends that the Conferees fund ORG administered by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture at the House-passed level of **\$5 million**. Starting in FY 09, USDA – CSREES has combined the program with the Integrated Water Quality research program to fund multi-year projects that examine the effects of organic production systems on water quality. This approach provides a specialized complement to the general purposes of the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.

ORGANIC MARKET AND PRODUCTION DATA INITIATIVES (ODI) – \$750,000

OFRF recommends that the Conferees fund ODI at the Senate-passed level of **\$750,000** (\$500,000 for ERS and \$250,000 for NASS). These funds will help continue and expand the much-needed organic data collection and analysis efforts at USDA, including analysis of the recently-conducted NASS Organic Production Survey.

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP) -- \$6.7 MILLION

OFRF applauds the Senate and the House for funding NOP at the President's request of **\$6.7 million**. OFRF supports this amount and recommends that the final bill fund NOP at this amount.