



Organic Agriculture for Health and Prosperity

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE

PROGRAM BASICS

The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) is USDA's flagship competitive research and extension grants program dedicated to organic agriculture. Unique in its scope and function, OREI funds innovative research and extension projects to help meet the production, marketing, and policy needs of the growing organic industry. Continued investment in organic research will facilitate continued growth of organic agriculture.

2012 FARM BILL

The USDA's investment in organic research has not kept pace with the sector's growth and market share. Organic is now 4 percent of the U.S. food economy, yet funding for organic research at USDA was only 2.6 percent in 2010. Due to high demand, OREI can only fund a small fraction of eligible proposals every year. The 2012 Farm Bill must close that research gap and invest in continued growth of organic agriculture.

**Funding for OREI in 2012 Farm Bill
\$30 million annually in mandatory funding**

WHY IT MATTERS

- Organic agriculture provides economic opportunity for farmers and ranchers across the nation.
- The organic sector has experienced strong and consistent growth, even in difficult economic times.
- An investment in research underpins the continued growth in organic.
- Farmers and ranchers need research to successfully grow and market good organic food.