

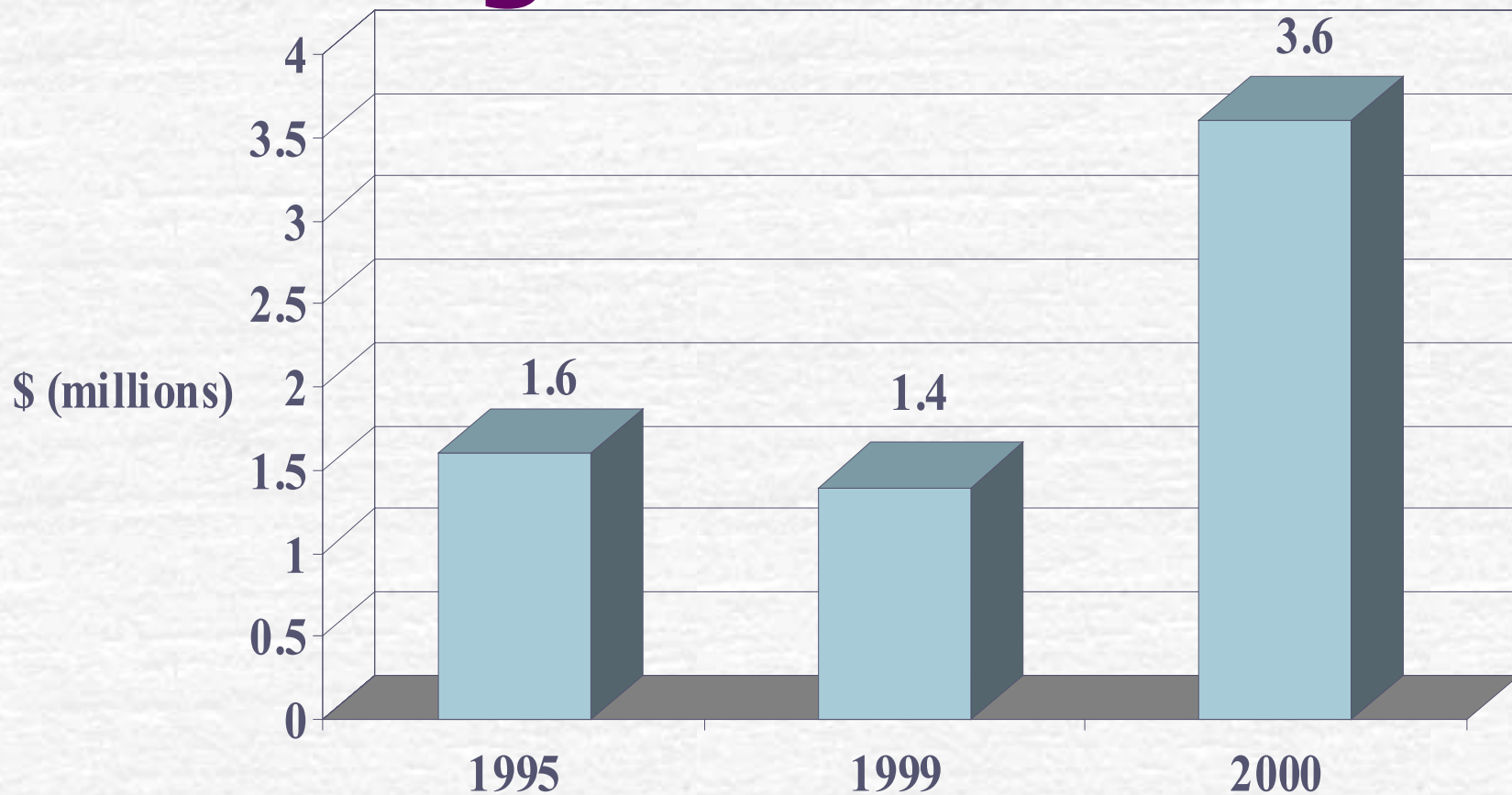


# **Getting 'Organic' Funding: Sources and Successful Approaches**

**Jane Sooby and Kim Kroll  
Organic Farming Research  
Foundation and USDA SARE**



# U.S. funding for organic research







# ***Organic agriculture research and extension initiative***

- **2002 Farm Bill Initiative**
- **\$3 million per year for the next  
5 years = \$15 million**
- **Largest amount ever for  
organic research**

# The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

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## The Program will have the following characteristics:

-  Strong farmer involvement in identifying research priorities
-  Emphasis on funding on-farm research complementary to station-based work
-  A systems approach to organic farming research \*
-  Sensitivity to scale of production and how current policy affects the economic viability of different sized enterprises

**\*Drinkwater, L.E. 2002. Cropping systems research: reconsidering agricultural experimental approaches. Horttech 12:355-361.**

# The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (Continued)

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- (1) Facilitating the development of organic agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods.
- (2) Evaluating the potential economic benefits to producers and processors who use organic methods.
- (3) Exploring international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed organic commodities.
- (4) Determining desirable traits for organic commodities.
- (5) Identifying marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture.
- (6) Conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of, experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms.

# USDA

## Funding Sources for Organic Research and Outreach



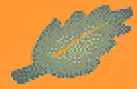
# Organic Transitions Program

The Organic Transitions Program for FY 2002 will emphasize research and outreach that assists farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning and ecosystem integration.

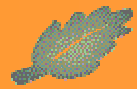
## Specific Objectives:

- (a) Weed management programs that strengthen the systems approach of organic agriculture
- (b) Understanding the relationship of applied organic fertility management to crop health and the resistance of crops to pests and diseases
- (c) Training systems designed to elevate the awareness of county Cooperative Extension personnel and other agricultural professionals who advise farmers about organic practices

# National Research Initiative - Managed Ecosystems Program

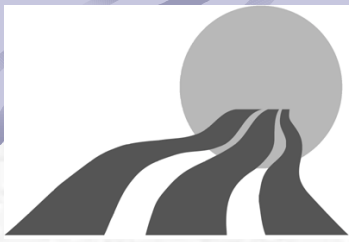


The goals of this program are to understand the impact of agriculture, forest, and rangeland practices on ecological systems and to promote their sustainability for the production of food, fiber, and forage.



Organic agriculture is not explicitly discussed in the goals or examples provided, but a few organic research experiments have been funded in this program.





# Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

SARE is a regional competitive grants program that offers several opportunities to fund organic research and education projects. About 10% of the 200+ projects awarded each year by SARE have a focus on organic agriculture.

## Research and Education Grants

Involve scientists, producers and others in an interdisciplinary approach

## Partnership Grants

Awarded for on-farm research and demonstration projects developed by agricultural professionals who work directly with farmers.

## Professional Development Grants

Allow extension educators and other agriculture professionals to take advantage of various learning opportunities to spread knowledge about sustainable concepts and practices.

## Farmer/Grower Grants

Fund producers directly to test new crops, practices and systems

# Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program— Northeast Region

## A. Stakeholder Involvement

The Northeast Region is committed to addressing the pest management needs expressed by diverse stakeholders. Project Directors (PDs) must explicitly cite sources that document the stakeholder-identified needs addressed in their proposals.

## B. Non-Pesticidal Tactics

## C. Multi-State Involvement

## D. Base Priorities

-Environmental Stewardship and Risk Management.

-Importance and value of the crop or cropping system to the Region.

-Importance of the pest or pest complex to the crop cropping system.

-Likelihood of implementation.

# Rural Business and Cooperative

## Service VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

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This grant program aims to help eligible independent producers of agricultural commodities, agricultural producer groups, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and majority-owned producer-based business ventures develop business plans for viable marketing opportunities and develop strategies to create marketing opportunities.

The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the definition of "value-added" to include the production of a product in a manner that enhances its value, such as organic produce, free range poultry, or eco-labeled products, or that is physically segregated to enhance its value, such as an identity preserved marketing system.

# Agricultural Marketing Service

## NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The Organic Certification Cost-Share Program is authorized to provide cost share assistance to producers in not more than 15 states that have a historically low participation rate in the Federal crop insurance program. One of the purposes of the cost-share program is to assist producers in transitioning to the new National Organic Program

The program will provide cost-share assistance, through participating states, to organic crop and livestock producers who have been certified by a certifying agent as of December 21, 2000. The Department has determined that payments will be limited to 70 percent of an individual producer's certification costs up to a maximum of \$500.

# 2002 Farm Bill Organic Initiative

- *National organic certification cost-share program: \$5 million for FY 2002, will pay up to 75% of certification fees, to a maximum of \$500 to a producer or handler*

# Conservation Security Program

The Conservation Security Program represents a new direction in agriculture policy that complements existing conservation programs. It will reward all types of farmers and ranchers for the real conservation and environmental benefits.

Participants have the choice of enrolling in one of three tiers:

## TIER I

Practices may include soil and residue management, nutrient management, pest management, irrigation management, grazing management, wildlife habitat management, contour farming, strip cropping, and related practices.

## TIER II

Practices entail adoption of land use adjustment practices such as resource conserving crop rotations, rotational grazing, conservation buffer practices, restoration of wildlife habitats, prairies, and/or wetlands, and related practices.

## TIER III

Participants satisfy the requirements of tiers I and II, while integrating land use practices into a whole-farm, total-resource approach that fosters long-term sustainability of the resource base.

# **Initiative for Future Agriculture and Farming Systems**

- ☞ Began in 2000; active through 2001**
- ☞ Funding reactivated in new Farm Bill**
- ☞ Revitalizing Small and Mid-Sized Farms: Organic Research, Education and Extension, \$1,800,000. Organic Ag Consortium members Ohio, Iowa, and North Carolina State, Tufts, OFRF**
- ☞ Northeast Organic Network: Enhancing Farm Viability Through Organic Agriculture. \$1,200,000. Cornell, NOFA NY & NJ, New England Small Farm Inst., CT Ag Expt. Station**

# Applying for Grants

- ✓ Find a grant program that matches your project
- ✓ Partner with farmers or other “stakeholders”
- ✓ Creativity can pay off
- ✓ Grant writing: an idea contest