

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**ORGANIC
FARMING
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

Dear Friends of OFRF,

If there is one word that defines 2025 for our community, it is steadfast.

The past year tested organic agriculture in new ways. Federal funding freezes created uncertainty. Trade disruptions rippled through supply chains. Long-standing programs faced new scrutiny. Farmers once again found themselves navigating shifting ground—economically, politically, and environmentally.

And yet, across the country, organic farmers continued to do what they have always done: adapt, innovate, and lead. At OFRF, we stood with them. We showed up in the field, in Washington D.C., and in virtual and in-person spaces where farmers were gathering with science-backed resources and information to share.

We brought farmer stories directly to lawmakers and agency staff. We expanded the reach of farmer-led research so that practical, field-tested solutions could spread faster. We launched the Organic Research Hub so farmers and researchers could more easily access credible, science-based knowledge when they needed it most. And we deepened our commitment to ensuring that organic agriculture is not only resilient, but equitable and accessible.

This was not a year of flashy wins. It was a year of quiet, determined work—protecting hard-won progress while continuing to build toward a stronger future.

Organic agriculture has always required courage: the courage to farm differently, to question the status quo, to invest in long-term soil health, even when short-term pressures mount. In 2025, we saw that courage reflected across our entire community.

When we invest in organic research, education, and advocacy, we are investing in more than a production system. We are investing in healthy soil, thriving rural communities, climate resilience, fairness, and the future of food.

Thank you for standing with us in a year that required resolve. As we look toward 2026 and the next Farm Bill cycle, your continued support and engagement have never mattered more.

With gratitude and determination,



Executive Director, OFRF



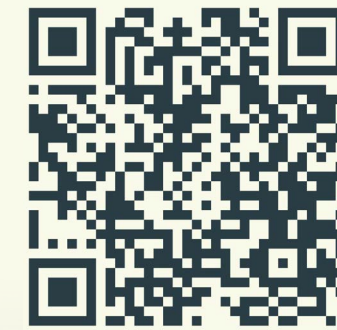
THIS YEAR REMINDED US WHAT IT MEANS TO SHOW UP.

Farmers showed up for their land and their communities. Together, we showed up to ensure they had the research, resources, and representation they deserve.

With your support, we can continue this work—strengthening organic agriculture as a solution for a healthier, more resilient food system.

Ways to give include cash, stocks, IRA distributions, donor-advised funds, estate planning, vehicle donations, and corporate matching.

**SHOW UP
WITH US.**



**Visit ofrf.org/donate
or email give@ofrf.org
to get started.**



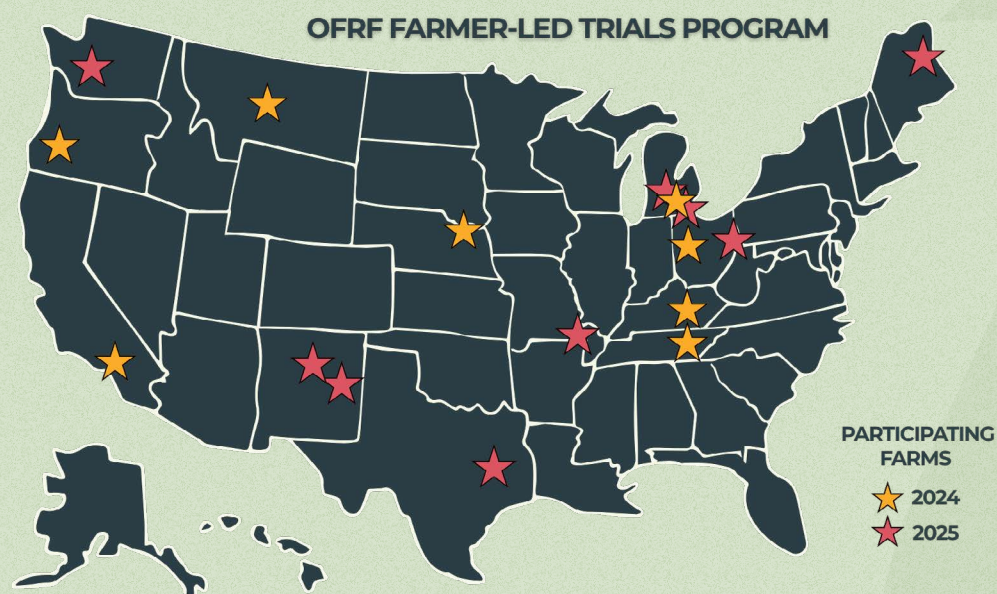
SHOWING UP IN THE FIELD

Innovation, Practice, Persistence

Even in uncertain times, farmers continue to show up - day after day, season after season.

Since 2024, OFRF has supported that leadership by supporting farmers in investigating solutions to their own production challenges. Through the [Farmer-Led Trials](#) program, new ideas are tested in real-world conditions and shared across the community—turning individual experience into collective progress.

FARMER-LED TRIALS



19 **OFRF Farmer-Researchers and counting**

7 **Farmer-Researcher webinar presentations**

11 **Farmer-Led Trial Reports**



Samantha Otto, founder and farmer of The Woven Trifecta (MI), [FLT Program Participant](#).

ORGANIC & NRCS

Natural Resource and Conservation (NRCS) staff showed up with a desire to better understand organic systems—asking how they could more effectively support farmers as they navigate conservation programs. Farmers showed up with real-world experience—demonstrating what conservation looks like on working organic farms.

OFRF BROUGHT THOSE GROUPS TOGETHER.

Through training and [webinars](#) with OFRF, NRCS staff gained practical insights into organic production, from [research-backed practices](#) to [real-world farm examples](#). At the same time, we worked with farmers across the country to share their stories—highlighting how conservation programs can be used, adapted, and improved for organic systems.

The result is more than knowledge. It's alignment—between the people stewarding land and the systems designed to support them.



"If I hadn't used cover crops, I would have never been able to grow anything in this soil. The first day I put a trowel in the soil after amending it for over a year, the trowel just slid in like a glove. And then I saw the worms. I was crying. Soil life is amazing."

- Rachel Opio, Little Lighthouse Farm (AZ), [2025 Farmer Story](#)

"These programs have been incredibly beneficial to our farm...We know this project will improve our water quality, reduce erosion for where the hedgerows will be, and increase biodiversity of the site that we have, by bringing beneficial insects and birds."

- Héktor Calderón-Victoria, Three Feathers Farm (CA), [2025 Farmer Story](#)



Showing up in Washington means carrying the voices of farmers into the rooms where decisions are made.

At OFRF, we recognize organic agriculture as a leading force for resilience, sustainability, and innovation. To advance our policy priorities, we work alongside partners and policymakers to build and maintain bipartisan support—ensuring organic agriculture continues to grow in both impact and recognition.

COMMUNICATING WITH LEGISLATORS

Showing up in Washington doesn't start in Washington—it starts with people feeling confident enough to share their story.

OFRF's free, self-paced course helps farmers, researchers, and advocates do just that—equipping them with the tools to communicate with policymakers and influence the decisions shaping the future of food and farming.

Attended

142

Meetings with Congressional staff on the Hill

In 2025 OFRF:

Delivered

5

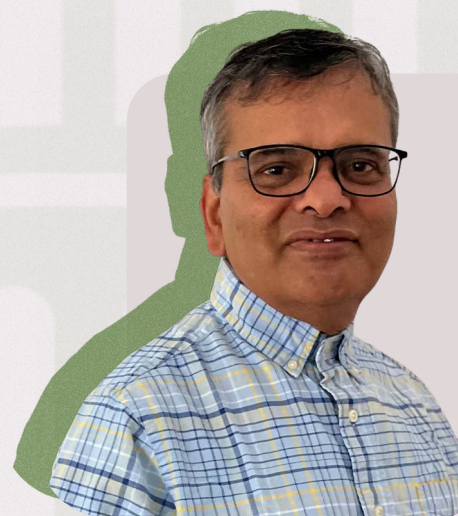
Sign-on letters coordinated across Congress

370

Researchers, farmers, and advocates completed the course in 2025

“As OFRF’s point person in D.C., I spend my days walking the halls of Congress, meeting with lawmakers and their staff, and talking about the value of organic farming research. We work to ensure organic perspectives are heard and reflected in policy decisions. What’s striking is that whether I’m in a Democrat’s office or a Republican’s, the conversations almost always land in the same place: organic farming research matters.”

-Vinnie Trometter, OFRF Policy Manager



“We can’t afford to stay silent... Regular engagement with lawmakers helps them understand the value of our research and how it contributes to the competitiveness and sustainability of the U.S. organic industry.”

- Dr. Dilip Panthee, North Carolina State University

“It is important now more than ever to communicate to our legislators how organic agriculture research plays out on the ground. I’m incredibly grateful to OFRF for facilitating this meeting (with Congressman Scott Fitzgerald’s (R-WI-05) staff). Without their support, I wouldn’t have had the chance to share our stories directly with lawmakers.”

- Dr. Nicole Tautges, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute



SHOWING UP WITH KNOWLEDGE

Infrastructure and Access

In a changing landscape, access to trusted knowledge is essential.

In 2025, OFRF showed up by strengthening how research is shared, understood, and applied. Through Seeds of Success and other educational initiatives, we connected farmers and researchers, translated complex science into practical insights, and expanded access to tools that support better decision-making on the ground. This work ensures that knowledge doesn't remain siloed—it becomes a shared resource that advances the entire organic community. In 2025:

11

organic farmers shared their expertise in seven webinars with 1K+ attendees

17

science-based resources created and organized to guide organic farmers and researchers, with 6K+ downloads

1K+

hours of educational videos watched



"Every good research idea I've ever had has come from being in community and working with farmers...so it [good research] is not my idea really. It really behooves researchers to be out with farmers."

*- Dr. Mary Hendrickson
University of Missouri, Seeds of Success Panelist*

THE ORGANIC RESEARCH HUB

The Organic Research Hub was created to bring organic research into the hands of the people who need it most. By gathering science-backed resources, practical tools, and farmer-informed insights in one place, the Hub helps transform information into action—supporting better decisions on farms across the country.

"There's a lot of noise online. The Hub cuts through that. I was changing our compost management and had some questions. In less than a minute, the Hub helped me find exactly what I needed—from credible sources I trust. That's a big deal. I can use it to make real decisions for our farm."

*- Jordan Settlege, Settlege & Settlege Farms (OH)
OFRF Organic Stewardship Council Member*



In 2025

864 Resources added to the Hub

231 Regional organic farming experts listed in Hub Extension Directory

Since launching the Hub in April 2025

15K+ Visitors

33K+ Pageviews

Your gateway to organic farming research.
www.hub.ofrf.org

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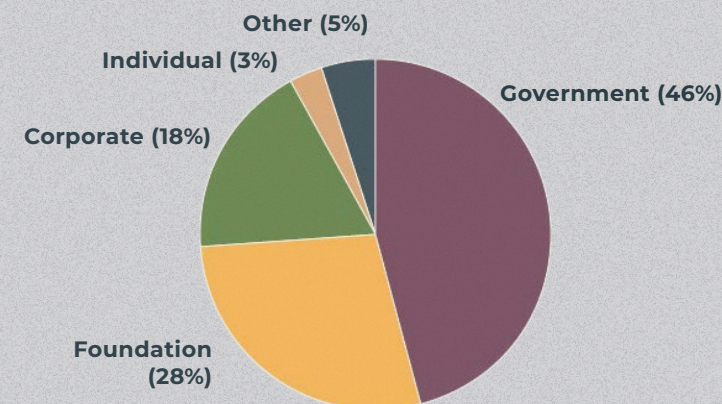
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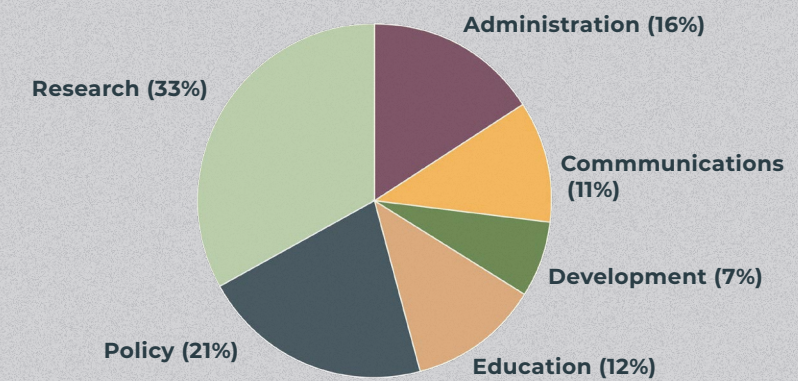
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REVENUE BY SOURCE



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES





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