



ORGANIC
FARMING
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

CASE FOR SUPPORT

2026

www.OFRF.org



The Roots of Organic 2026

The earthy, primal scent of living soil, the hum of pollinators moving between blossoms, the quiet resilience of farmers nurturing their land—this is the heartbeat of organic agriculture. It feeds both the soil and the soul, sustaining not only crops but communities and ecosystems.

At the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), we work to ensure that organic farmers have the knowledge, resources, and support they need to thrive. Rooted in science and guided by the voices of farmers, we champion research, education, and policy solutions that prioritize soil health, biodiversity, and ecological balance. We strive to create a future where organic farming is more than a method—it's a movement toward a healthier, more sustainable future and we invite you to be part of it.

Our core programs include:

- Conducting nationwide research to understand organic farmers' needs.
- Championing policies that put farmers first.
- Creating accessible, science-backed resources for organic farmers.
- Supporting farmer-led innovation with on-farm research trials to advance climate-resilient farming practices.
- Expanding public understanding of organic farming and its benefits to the environment.

Our Mission

At OFRF, we are dedicated to revolutionizing agriculture by fostering the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. We achieve this by cultivating impactful organic research, [advancing education](#), and shaping federal policies that expand organic acreage and support the farmers who nourish our communities. We envision organic farming not only as the leading form of agriculture but as a lifeline for healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies, thriving on the bedrock of [regenerative organic practices](#). These practices boost the productivity of farming systems and are crucial in safeguarding our planet for future generations.





Organic Matters

Support for organic research lags behind producers' and consumers' growing interest in organic agriculture. Organic farmers are increasingly pressured not only by market demands but also by economic and climate change challenges exacerbated by historically inadequate investments in organic agricultural research. This deficiency prevents their access to essential, science-based resources and technical support. This knowledge gap leaves many producers without the necessary information on best practices, pest management, soil health, and resilience strategies—crucial elements for the sustained growth and viability of all farms, not just organic ones.

**ORGANIC FOOD MAKES UP
6% OF TOTAL U.S. FOOD
SALES & 15% OF ALL U.S.
PRODUCE SALES**

Yet organic research receives less than 2% of USDA's research funding, leaving farmers without critical support—especially now, as future funding faces uncertainty.



**PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH FUNDING HAS
DECLINED BY 20% SINCE
2000**

Despite this drop, every \$1 invested in agricultural research generates over \$20 in economic benefits.



**LESS THAN 1% OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
SERVICE'S BUDGET FUNDS ORGANIC RESEARCH**



The Roots of Agricultural Change



Rooted in a mission to transform, OFRF tackles these challenges head-on by integrating research, education, and advocacy to stimulate significant change. With insights from seven of our national studies, including the influential [2022 National Organic Research Agenda](#) (NORA), we craft and disseminate [science-backed educational resources](#) that translate intricate research into practical, actionable strategies for farmers.

Our efforts are also geared towards dismantling barriers, ensuring that organic farming remains a successful, accessible, and beneficial path for all who seek it. By working in coalition with farmers, researchers, and policymakers, we bridge the gap between on-the-ground challenges and policy initiatives, securing investments in organic agriculture where they matter most.

Looking ahead, we see OFRF as more than a participant in the organic sector—we are a leader in shaping its future. We will continue amplifying the voices of farmers driving policy change, sharing their stories as they stand before policymakers to advocate for a food system built on health, sustainability, and community. Like the first light of dawn, quietly persistent in illuminating new possibilities, OFRF is planting the seeds of lasting change.

Building on our legacy as a convener of the organic research community, OFRF is launching the Society for Organic Researchers and Professionals to fill a critical gap in agricultural research. This new society will serve as a vital platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy, fostering a vibrant community committed to advancing farming through rigorous research and innovative practices.

This future—energized by connection, innovation, and the collective power of organic farmers and advocates—is what OFRF strives to cultivate. Each person touched by our mission helps drive a global shift towards practices that honor and sustain the very essence of our farmlands for generations to come.





Stories From the Field

“Farming is in my blood.



Photo: Moore Family Farms

“For generations, my family has worked the land at Moore Family Farms in North Carolina. Transitioning to organic was an investment in our farm’s future, but through my internship at OFRF, I saw the bigger picture—**organic farming is a movement that connects research, policy, and farmers like me.**” – *Dakota Moore, Organic Farmer & OFRF Intern*

"The farmers we interviewed didn't just share their experiences—they shaped the Crop-Livestock Integration resources in a way only they could. Their insights on infrastructure, rotations, and food safety turned research into real-world solutions. I can still hear the voices of the farmers we interviewed and can practically smell the pig pens through their photos—a reminder that organic farming is built on lived experience." – *Brian Geier, Organic Farmer & OFRF Communications Manager*

Bringing Farmers Voices to the Forefront



Photo: Local Color Farm & Fiber

At this year’s Organic Association of Kentucky Annual Conference, OFRF Farmer-Led Trial farmer Maggie Dungan presented her research on solarization, and the response was immediate—farmers asked how she used it, what worked, and how they could try it themselves. **That’s the power of farmer-to-farmer learning: one farm’s experience sparking real change in others.**

Farmer-Led Research in Action



Photo: Salad Days Farm





Cultivating Equity and Collaboration

At the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), we recognize that organic agriculture cannot thrive without racial equity. As a predominantly White-led organization, we acknowledge the historical injustices in agriculture and the structural barriers BIPOC farmers continue to face in accessing land, capital, markets, and research support.

We are committed to dismantling systemic racism in organic farming and ensuring that BIPOC farmers, researchers, and communities have greater access to resources, education, and policy representation. This commitment is not just a goal—it informs everything we do. From prioritizing BIPOC-led research and developing culturally relevant farmer resources to advocating for equitable federal policies, racial equity is embedded in our mission.

This work is amplified through partnerships with organizations such as H.E.A.L Food Alliance, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), National Organic Coalition (NOC), and Tuskegee University, among others. Each partnership enriches our understanding, amplifies our impact, and helps ensure farmer voices—especially those from historically underserved communities—are shaping a more inclusive and equitable organic farming landscape.

Our collaboration with the First Nations Development Institute (FNDI) is a poignant example of this commitment in action. Together, we embarked on a critical initiative to understand the unique challenges faced by Native and tribal agricultural producers in attaining organic certification. Together, we co-developed a culturally relevant survey and research protocol tailored to the distinct needs of these communities. This effort was not just about gathering data, but about crafting a tool that resonates with the lived experiences of Native farmers, reflecting their rich agricultural traditions and current realities.



Photo of Kokoasse Kpomblekou-A (2nd from left), member of OFRF's Board of Directors, at Tuskegee University's organic research fields.

We know there is more work to do. As we continue striving toward an inclusive, equitable, and resilient organic farming system, we invite partners and funders to join us in creating lasting change—ensuring that organic agriculture remains accessible and beneficial for all farmers.





Our Work is Ambitious

2025 has ushered in some significant shifts in the organic agriculture sector that could impact our shared work for years to come. The changes in federal funding have shaken up even the farthest reaches of our community. Now, more than ever, we need to amplify the voice of organic farmers in D.C. and ensure that research meets the needs of farmers across the nation. OFRF bridges the gap between science and practice, bringing a unique perspective and vision to the agricultural community.

We are asking you to partner with us with general operating support.

\$200,000

Ensures farmers have access to the science-based information and education resources they need.

Supports a strong voice advocating for critical USDA programs that organic farmers rely on.

\$150,000

\$100,000

Allows us to provide stipends and technical assistance for one cohort of Farmer-Led Trial farmers.

Brings scientific expertise and resources directly to farmers at conferences and in-person events..

\$50,000

\$10,000

Covers over one month of technical assistance for Farmer-Led Trials farmers.

Ensures the accessibility of our resources through activities like translation and outreach services.

\$5,000





Corporate Opportunities

OFRF offers corporate partners a credible, science-backed way to invest in the future of organic agriculture—supporting farmers, research, and policy without compromising integrity. There are opportunities for small targeted investments or something larger and more in-depth. Some of our sponsors participate in meetings with legislators, while others utilize programs like 1% for the Planet to provide the structure. The information below outlines our standardized opportunities for organizational sponsorship to support our work and serves as a baseline for designing our partnership.

	Research Stewards \$75k-\$250k+	Core Supporter \$25k-\$75k	Field Builders \$5k-\$25k
• Placement in the monthly e-newsletter (22,000 recipients)			
• Logo on the partner page of the OFRF website (100,000+ hits per year)			
• Optional internal lunch-n-learn with OFRF staff (research and policy)			
• Annual meeting with OFRF leadership to answer questions on impact and landscape changes			
• Annual recognition on OFRF social media of achievements and partnership (180,000 followers; five million person reach)			