



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

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## FACT SHEET

# ORGANIC RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE

### OVERVIEW

**O**N SEPT. 29, 2014, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced more than \$23 million in grants to improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers. The grants were partially funded through the **Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)**, which is authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill). The program focuses on helping producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards grow and market high-quality products.

### GRANTS

NIFA awarded \$19 million in grants to 19 projects in 16 states through OREI. The grants disbursed also include more than \$3 million to seven projects in six states through the **Organic Transitions Program (ORG)**. This year, ORG focused on environmental services provided by organic farming systems that support soil conservation and contribute to climate change mitigation.

Two new priorities were added to help develop educational tools for extension professionals, as well as cultural practices and other allowable alternatives to substances recommended for removal from the **National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances**. Organic practices and systems addressed include crops, animal production, and systems integrating plant and animal production.

"As the organic agriculture industry continues to grow in the United States and around the world, it will play a major role in our efforts to ensure global food security. These grants will produce quality science that organic farmers rely on to remain profitable and continue producing high-quality, nutritious food."

-Sonny Ramaswamy, Director  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

### IMPACT

Organic Research and Extension Initiative-funded projects assist farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning by delivering practical research-based information and will improve the ability of growers to develop the Organic System Plan required for certification. For fiscal year 2014, special emphasis was given to research, education and extension relating to management of diseases, insect pests and weeds in specific regions.

### FISCAL YEAR 2014 OREI AWARDS

**Cornell University**  
Ithaca, NY

1) \$1,996,783  
2) \$49,887

**Iowa State University**  
Ames, IA  
\$1,921,911

**National Center for  
Appropriate Technology**  
Butte, MT  
\$749,963

**North Carolina State  
University**  
Raleigh, NC  
\$1,415,833

**Ohio State University**  
Columbus, OH  
\$1,996,381

**Oregon State University**  
Corvallis, OR  
\$1,997,986

**Oregon Tilth**  
Corvallis, OR  
\$49,881

**Organic Farming  
Research Foundation**  
Santa Cruz, CA  
\$100,000

**Organic Seed Alliance**  
Port Townsend, WA  
\$42,951

**Pennsylvania State  
University**  
University Park, PA  
\$1,999,760

**Purdue University**  
West Lafayette, IN  
\$1,987,150

**University of Georgia**  
Athens, GA  
\$49,933

**University of Illinois**  
Urbana-Champaign, IL  
\$749,927

**University of Maine**  
Orono, ME  
\$21,686

**University of Missouri**  
Columbia, MO  
\$922,889

**Utah State University**  
Logan, UT  
\$1,555,053

**University of Wisconsin**  
Madison, WI  
\$49,846

**USDA Agricultural  
Research Service**  
Ames, IA  
\$1,968,656

### FISCAL YEAR 2014 ORG AWARDS

**Cornell University**  
Ithaca, NY  
\$499,932

**New Mexico State  
University**  
Las Cruces, NM  
\$499,191

**Oregon State University**  
Corvallis, OR  
\$496,557

**University of Georgia**  
Athens, GA  
\$500,000

**University of Maryland**  
College Park, MD  
\$499,995

**Washington State  
University**  
Pullman, WA  
1) \$499,991  
2) \$498,073