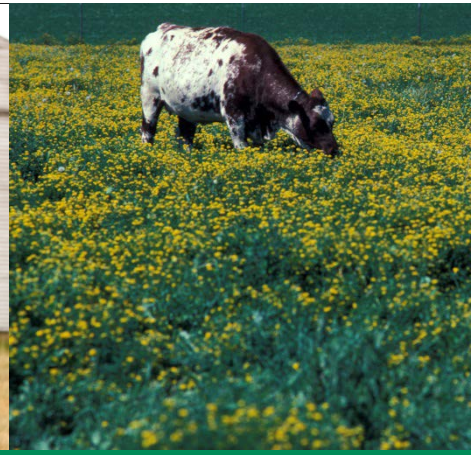
USDA Resources for Organic

Betsy Rakola, Organic Policy Advisor
Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator

American Seed Trade Association
June 18, 2015

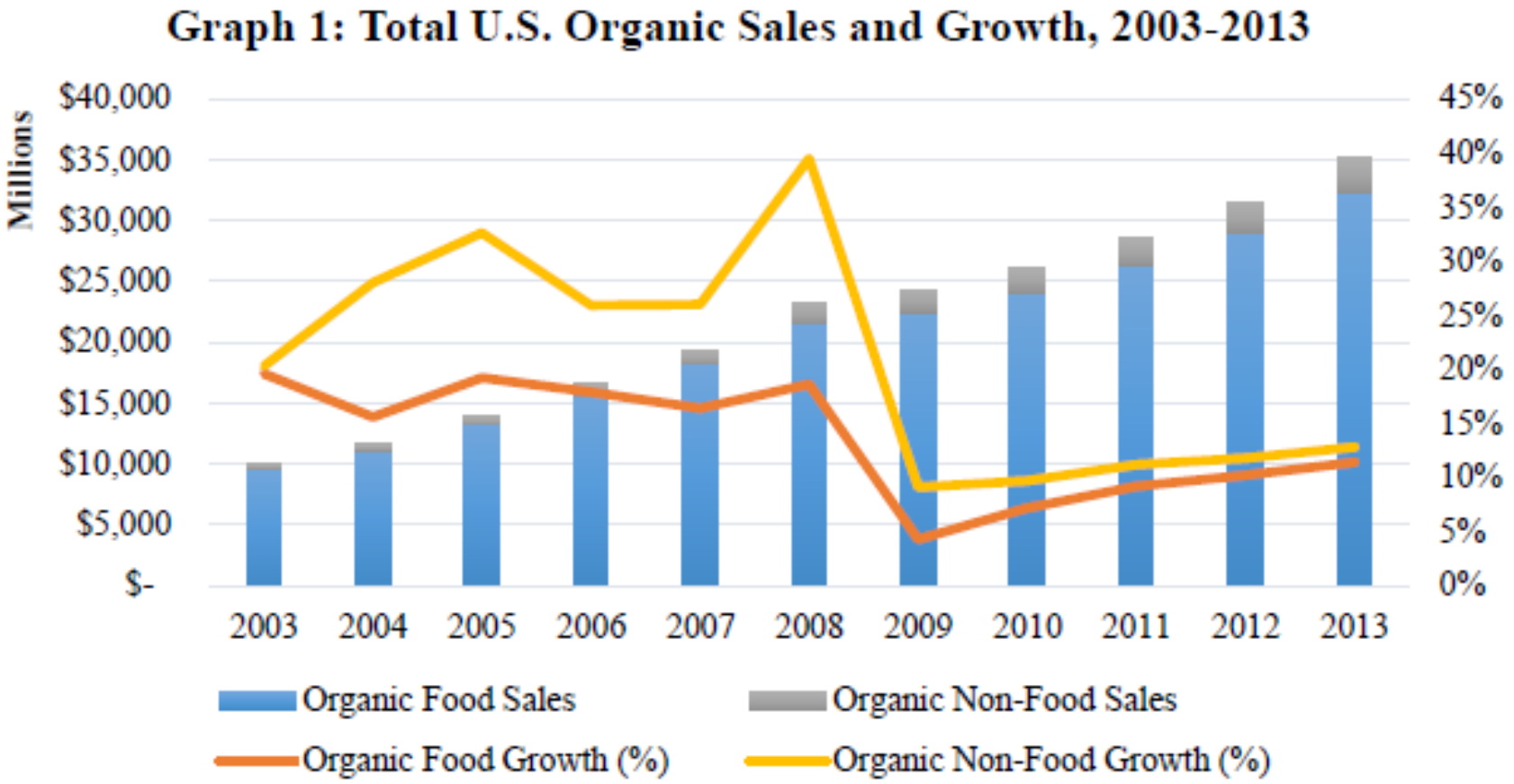


USDA Strategic Plan Goals for Organic

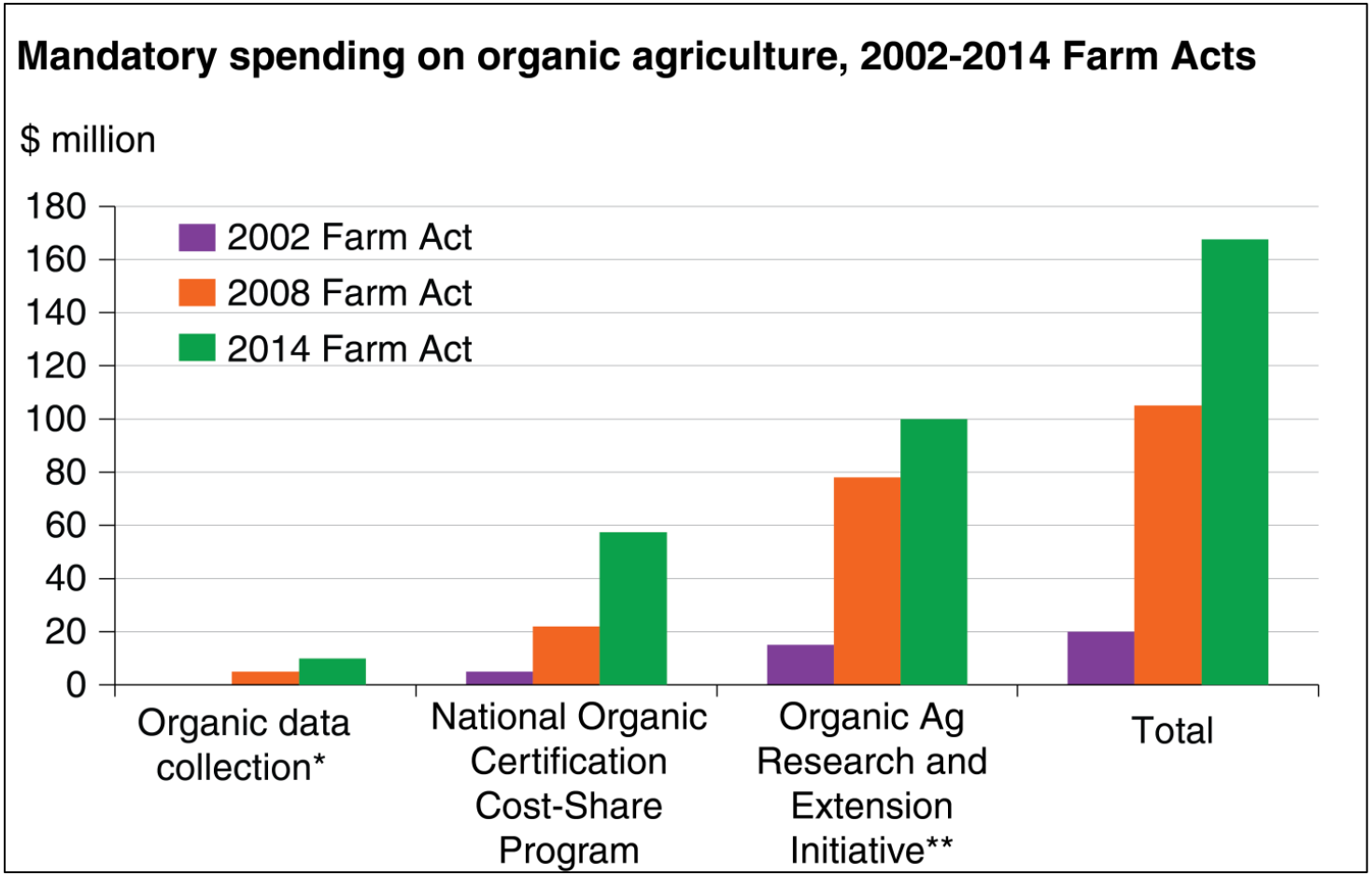
- To **increase the number of certified organic operations**, USDA will :
  - Support research and education that enables organic production
  - Reduce overlapping requirements
  - Eliminate other obstacles
  - Collaborate with others to make certification more feasible for small and beginning farmers and business.
- By **providing education resources on organics to producers through its field offices**, USDA will better serve diverse management systems, including organic and specialty crops.
- **Expand crop insurance availability and product coverage**, especially for livestock, pasture, rangeland, forage, organic, and specialty crops.

Organic Market Growth



Source: Organic Trade Association's 2014 Organic Industry Survey conducted 1/27/2014 – 4/5/2014.

Federal Funding for Organic



Making Certification Feasible

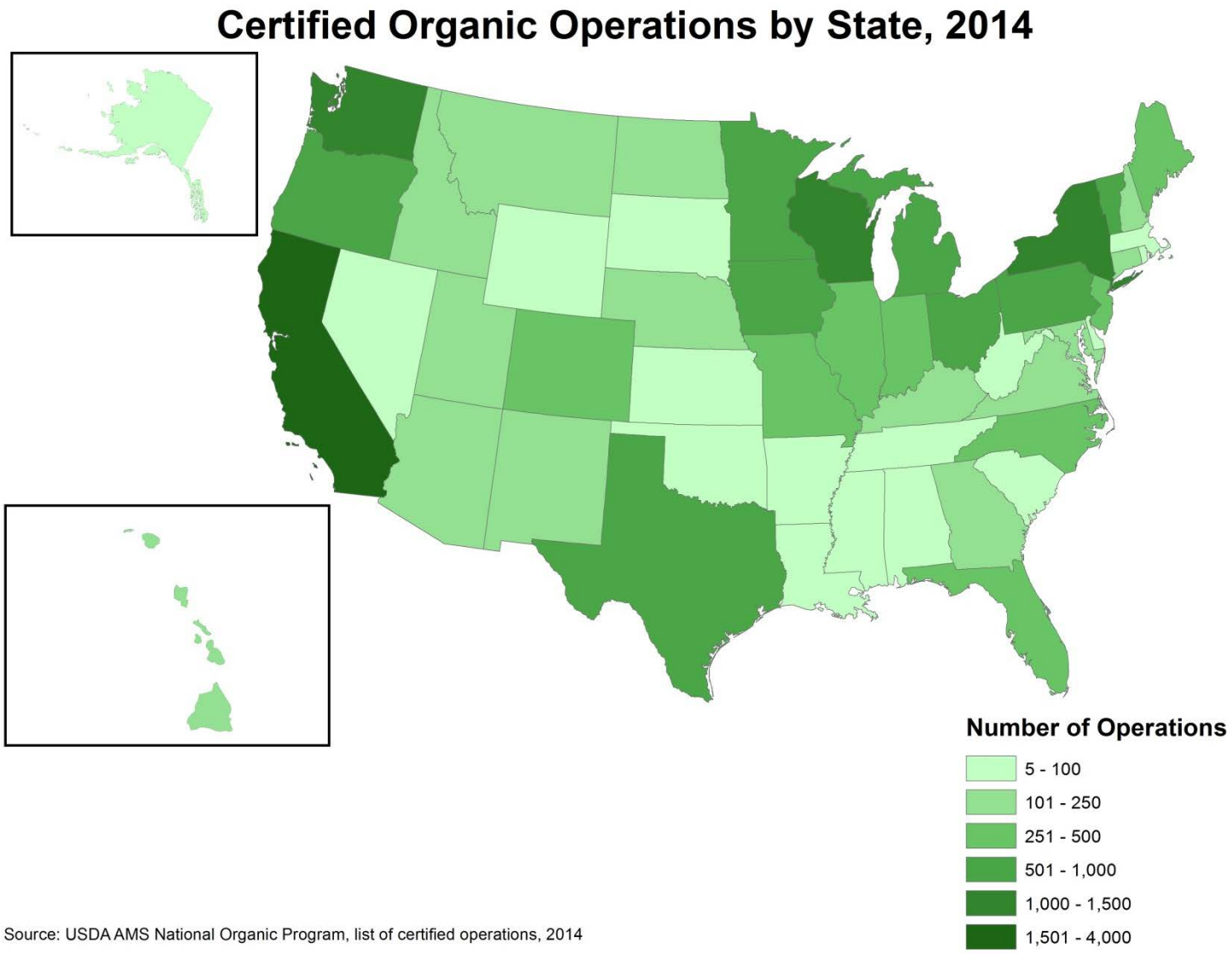
Organic Certification Cost Share Program

- Reimbursements for up to 75% of the cost of certification
- Maximum of $750 per year, per scope
- About $12 million available annually, through 2018

Conservation Programs for Organic Producers

- EQIP Organic Initiative: up to $20,000 per year
- Consultants available to help develop an Organic System Plan
- $106 million in assistance to over 6,000 farms since 2009

Certified Operations in the US



Source: USDA AMS National Organic Program, list of certified operations, 2014

Expanding Crop Insurance Tools

Crop insurance tools for organic producers

- Whole Farm insurance: good for diversified farms, high subsidies
- Contract price elections: insurance based on existing contract, covers 69 crops
- Price elections for organic crops: 26 organic crops now have insurance options, more in development

Non-Insured Disaster Assistance (FSA) also available for organic price protection

Supporting Research and Education on Organic

Research

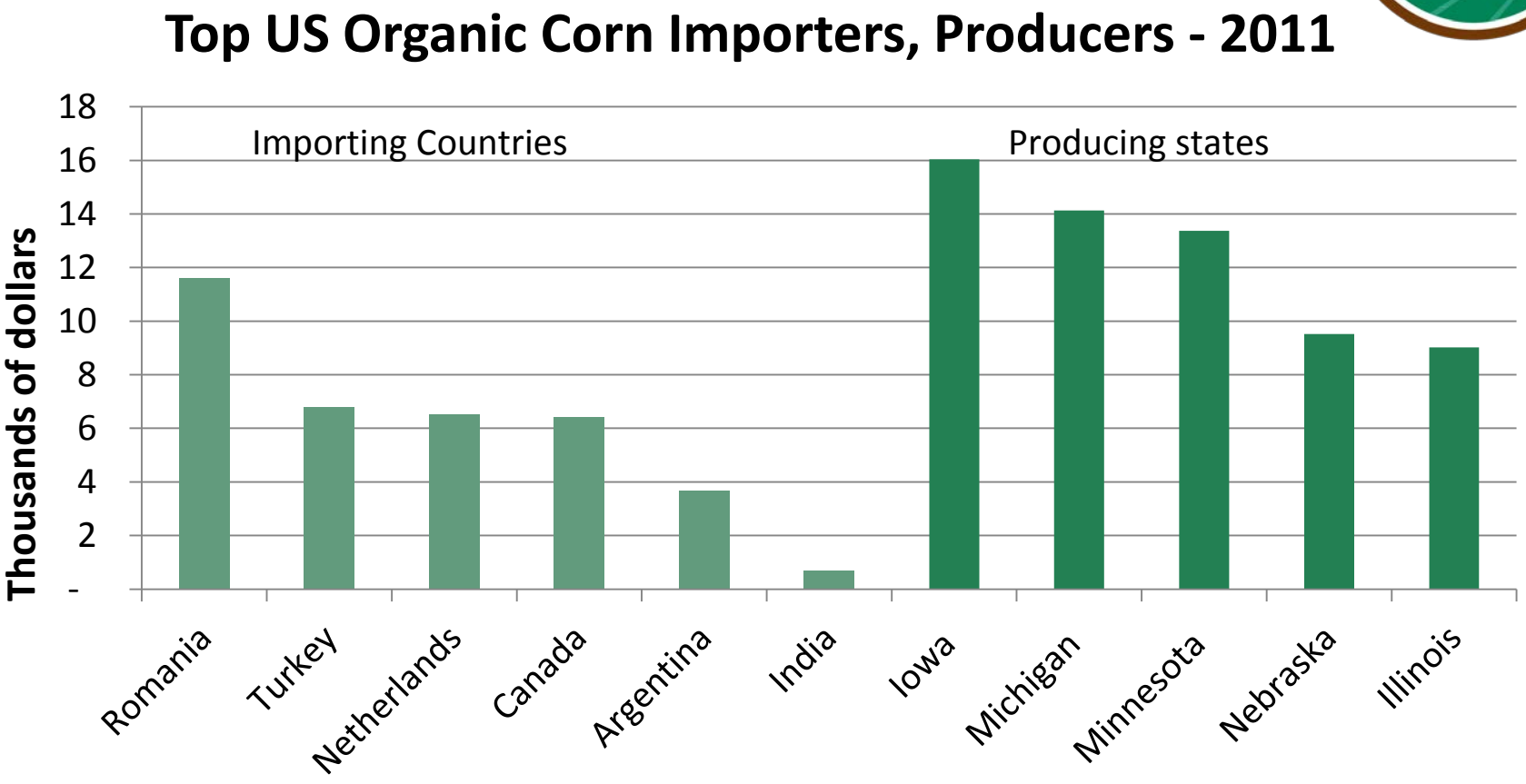
- Over $21 million in annual grants from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture support organic-specific grant funding
- Long-term organic studies at Agricultural Research Service facilities investigate organic production and yields
- Research focuses on improving productivity and success of organic agriculture, including several successful seed breeding projects
- Nearly $220 million invested since 2009

Data on Organic Production

Data

- Organic market prices published weekly by the Agricultural Marketing Service, including fruits, vegetables, grains, and dairy
- National Agricultural Statistics Service reports on organic production data, acreage, volumes, and prices
  - 2014 Organic Producer Survey will be published August 31, 2015
- Economic research service provides cost of production data on organic corn, soy, wheat, & dairy

Organic Corn Producers and Importers

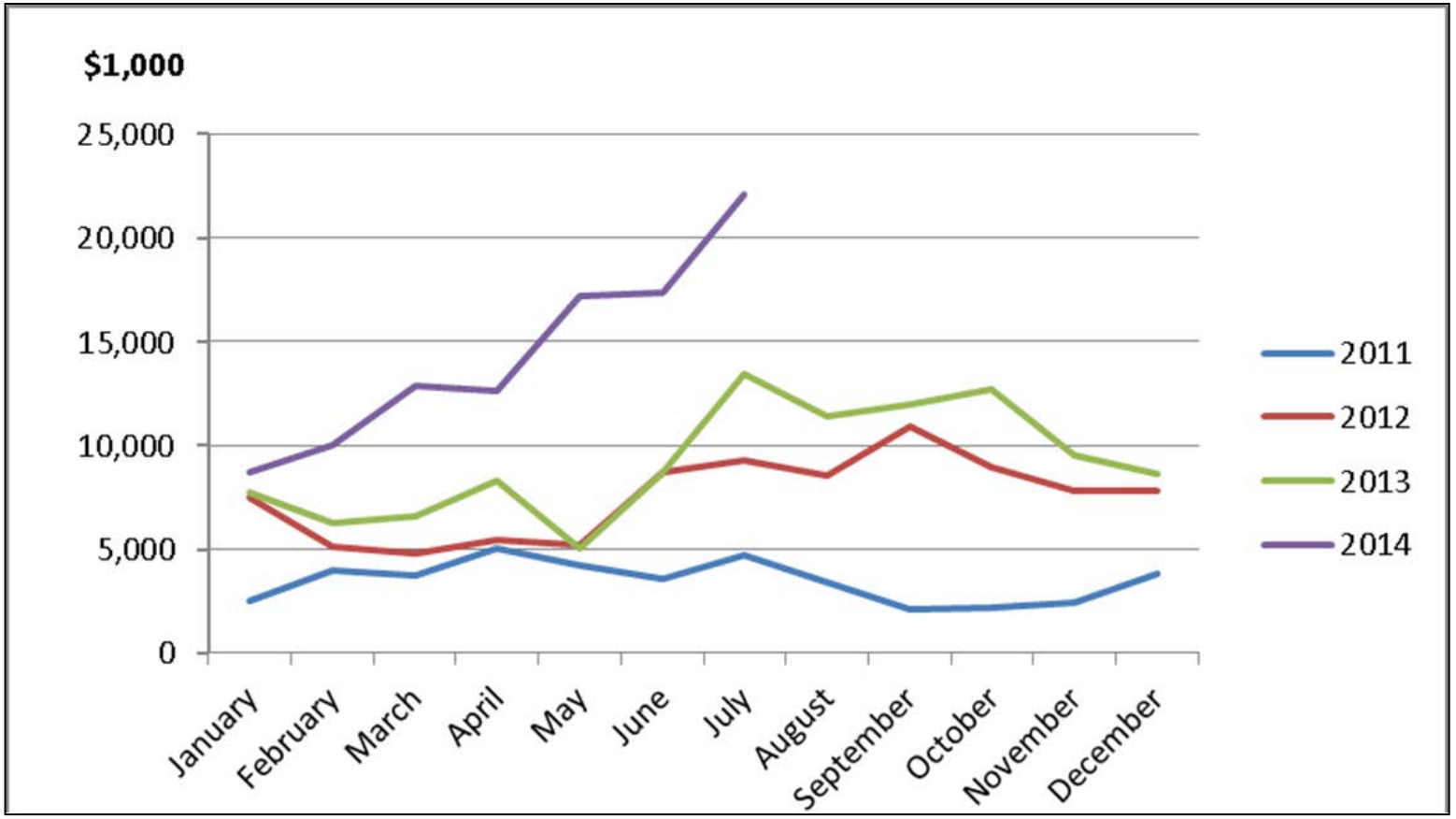


At least 25% of organic corn consumed in the United States is imported.

Growth in Soybean Organic Imports

Organic imports have helped fill the U.S. supply gap

For example, soybean imports continue to climb



Infrastructure & Capital Programs

Infrastructure

- Business & industry guaranteed loans
- Business development grants & grants to establishment of cooperative development centers
- $45 million invested in organic businesses since 2009

Capital

- Farm loans and low-interest loan guarantees
- Microloans – up to $50,000, targeted to small producers

Organic Literacy Initiative

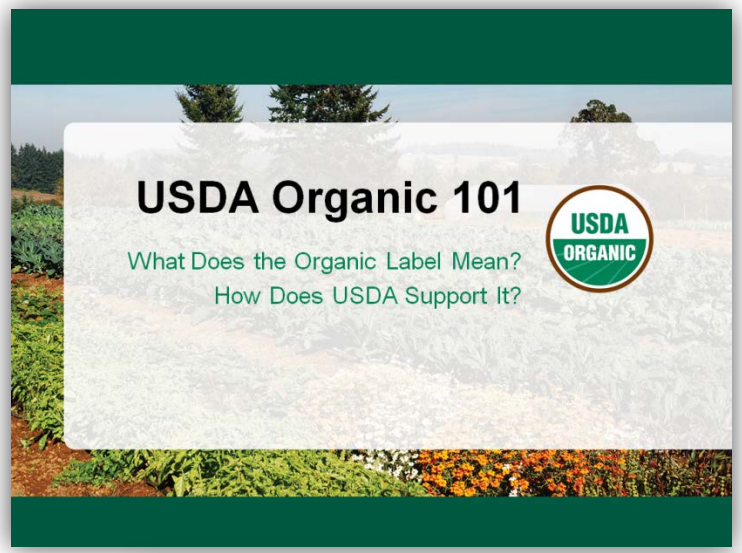
Organic Literacy: Organic Fundamentals and USDA Support

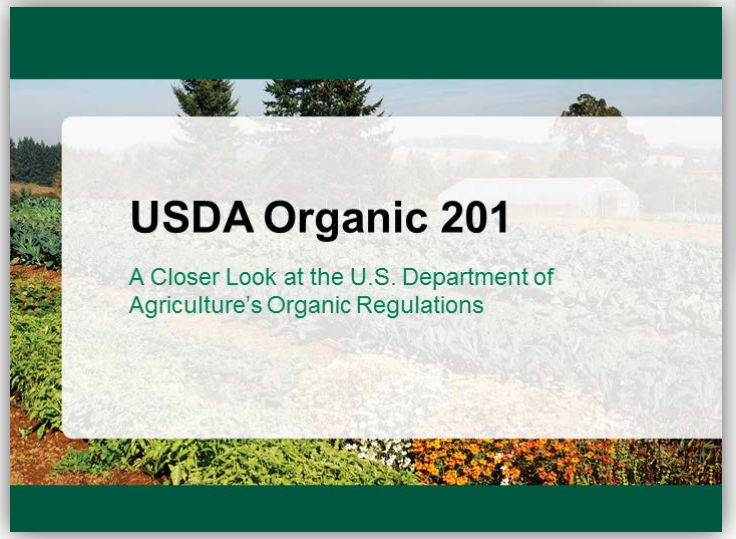
- Online training modules & in-person workshops
  - Over 30,000 USDA staff trained on organic since 2009
- In-depth guides to organic production & certification
- Organic "portal," a one-stop shop for organic resources

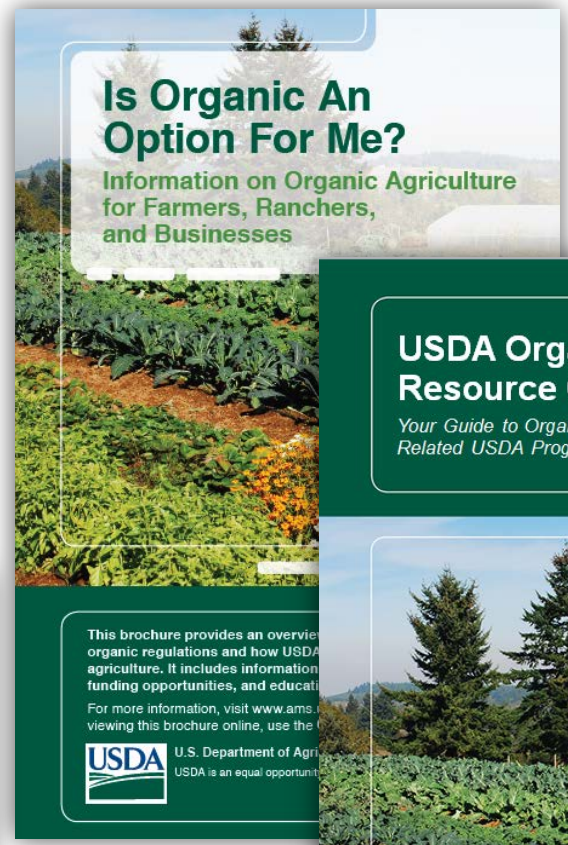
www.usda.gov/organic

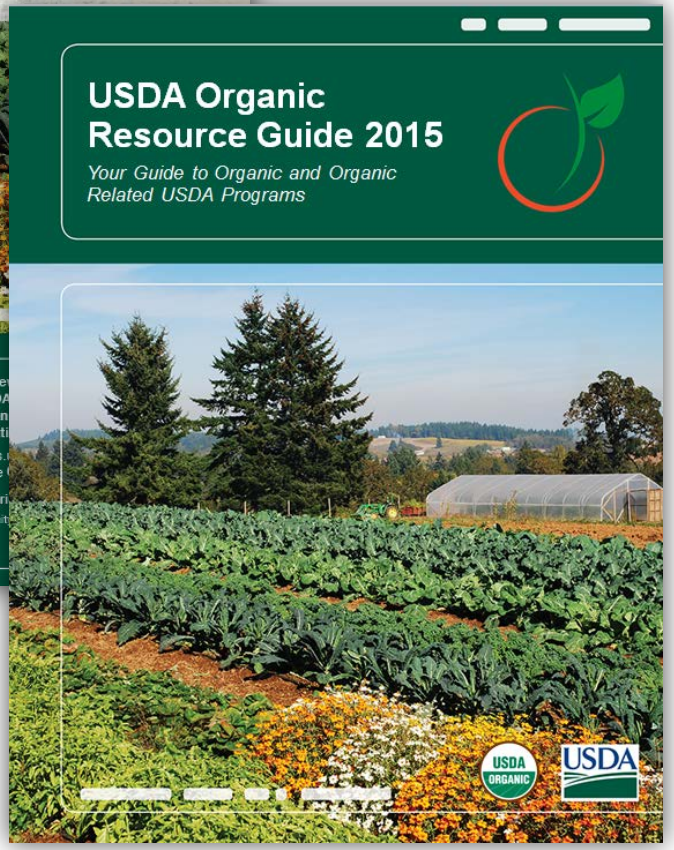
- Many tools in development, to be released later in 2015

Organic Literacy Initiative Snapshot









Coexistence

Supporting Farmer and Consumer Choice

- Organic and non-GE farmers all vital to US agriculture
- Advisory Committee of Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture advises USDA
- March 2015 stakeholder workshop discussed USDA strategies and requested public feedback
- May 2015 webinars requested input on revising biotechnology regulations, public comment period open until June 22, 2015

www.aphis.usda.gov/APHISVirtualMeetings/about_340.html

Questions

Thank you

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