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*USDA 2008 National Organic Production Survey: National Acreage and Crop Yields*

By Leonard Gianessi, Alexander Rinkus, CropLife Foundation

As a follow-on to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's first in-depth survey of organic farming in the United States. NASS collected 2008 data from operators of farms that were either USDA-certified organic or were exempt from certification because of sales totaling less than \$5000. Farms that were not USDA certified or exempt were not included even if those farms were following USDA's National Organic Program standards.

The 2008 Organic Production Survey counted 14,540 organic farms and ranches in the U.S., comprising 4.1 million acres of land of which 1.6 million acres consisted of harvested cropland [1]. Of those farms, 10,903 were USDA certified and 3,637 were exempt from certification.

Table 1 shows the 2008 national organic acreage total for 64 crops included in the NASS survey. Also shown in Table 1 are the Survey's 2008 national estimates of the quantity of production grown with organic methods for each crop. By dividing the national quantity of production estimates by the estimates of national acreage, we derived estimates of the 2008 national average yield on organic farms for each crop. These estimates are also shown in Table 1 in terms of pounds per acre.

Table 2 shows 2008 national acreage and per-acre yield estimates for the 64 crops as tabulated by NASS for all farms in the U.S. including organic and non-organic farms. These estimates were assembled from four separate NASS reports for citrus fruits, vegetables, noncitrus fruits and nuts, and field crops [2]-[5].

By dividing Table 1's estimates by the estimates in Table 2, we calculated estimates of the percent of each crop's national acreage that consists of organic production and estimates of the average differences between the yields on organic farms compared to the yields on all farms. These estimates are shown in Table 3.

The 1.4 million harvested acres on organic farms represented .4% of the 313 million harvested acres of the 64 crops for all farms. For 3 crops, the percent of acres farmed organically was above 10%. For most of the crops (40), the national organic acres represented 1-9% of total national acres. For 21 crops the national organic acreage represented less than 1% of total national acreage.

Table 3 shows that for 58 of the 64 crops national average yields on organic farms were less than the average yield on all farms. For 27 crops, the national average yield on organic farms was >40% lower than national yields on all farms. The average yield on

organic farms was 35% lower for fruit, nut, and berry crops, 38% lower for vegetable crops, and 30% lower for field crops.

*References*

1. USDA-NASS, Census of Agriculture: Organic Production Survey (2008), Vol 3, Pt 2, February 2010.
2. USDA-NASS, Crop Production 2009 Summary, January 2010.
3. USDA-NASS, Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2009 Preliminary Summary, January 2010.
4. USDA-NASS, Citrus Fruits 2009 Summary, September 2009.
5. USDA-NASS, Vegetables 2009 Summary, January 2010.

Table 1: Organic Crop Acreage and Production: 2008

<b>Fruit/Nuts/Berries</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Lbs/Acre</b>
Apples	20009	488194548	lbs	24409
Avocados	3709	5872	tons	3166
Cherries-sweet	2061	5461	tons	5299
Cherries-tart	264	377430	lbs	1430
Dates	485	1382	tons	5699
Figs	1268	3115	tons	4913
Grapefruit	1641	15236	tons	18569
Grapes	27111	91597	tons	6757
Lemons	1407	9618	tons	13671
Oranges	6947	42004	tons	12093
Peaches	1838	9875	tons	10745
Pears	2145	21897	tons	20417
Plums/Prunes	3284	10668	tons	6497
Tangerines	830	2756	tons	6641
Almonds	4937	6450131	lbs	1306
Hazelnuts	154	145	tons	1883
Pecans	4860	1372031	lbs	282
Pistachios	895	1520032	lbs	1698
Walnuts	4321	4427	tons	2049
Blackberries	492	1688497	lbs	3432
Blueberries-Tame	1953	5949541	lbs	3046
Cranberries	340	28119	barrels	8270
Raspberries	663	4666612	lbs	7039
Strawberries	1577	424368	cwt	26909
<b>Field Crops</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Lbs/Acre</b>
Barley	47227	2112078	bushels	2147
Beans-dry	12407	177212	cwt	1428
Corn -grain	143432	15749401	bushels	6167
Corn -silage	24871	373615	tons	30044
Cotton	10555	12352	bales	561
Flax	13958	159706	bushels	641
Hay	415476	1105888	tons	5323
Oats	41148	2246914	bushels	1747
Peanuts	7929	21119547	lbs	2663
Peas-dry	7555	80348	cwt	1063
Rice	26763	1086488	cwt	4060
Rye	9239	248779	bushels	1508
Safflower	4805	2357561	lbs	491
Sorghum -grain	7797	217580	bushels	1563
Soybeans	98199	2582095	bushels	1578
Sunflowers	8311	7556199	lbs	909
Wheat -durum	22038	423649	bushels	1153
Wheat -other spring	93372	2501076	bushels	1608
Wheat -winter	202968	5757762	bushels	1702

<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Lbs/Acre</b>
Artichokes	488	14298	cwt	2930
Beans-snap	5234	15719	tons	6006
Broccoli	4768	545336	cwt	11437
Cabbage	1011	157512	cwt	15580
Cantaloupes	2025	291170	cwt	14379
Carrots	8252	54746	tons	13268
Cauliflower	2004	264254	cwt	13186
Celery	1497	524014	cwt	35004
Garlic	1016	70565	cwt	6945
Melons-honeydew	304	43280	cwt	14237
Lettuce	35018	3408064	cwt	9682
Onions	4169	68158	tons	32697
Peas -green	6548	13307	tons	4064
Peppers -bell	870	120912	cwt	13898
Potatoes	7989	2274406	cwt	28469
Spinach	7699	23992	tons	6232
Squash	3443	401049	cwt	11648
Sweet Corn	6239	34800	tons	11155
Sweet Potatoes	4235	989858	cwt	23373
Tomatoes	8818	196822	tons	44640
Watermelons	1293	287461	cwt	22232

Table 2: Total National Crop Acreage and Production: 2008

<b>Fruit/Nuts/Berries</b>	<b>Lbs/Acre</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Apples	27400	350590
Avocados	3180	72830
Cherries-sweet	6000	82610
Cherries-tart	6170	34750
Dates	7420	5100
Figs	9220	9400
Grapefruit	37122	83400
Grapes	15640	935950
Lemons	20983	59000
Oranges	30390	663100
Peaches	18320	124000
Pears	29600	58620
Plums/Prunes	6295	96740
Tangerines	26024	40500
Almonds	2400	680000
Hazelnuts	2260	28400
Pecans	248	781809
Pistachios	2360	118000
Walnuts	3920	223000
Blackberries	6730	6700
Blueberries-Tame	5790	60180
Cranberries	20590	38200
Raspberries	7348	16000
Strawberries	46500	54470
<b>Field Crops</b>	<b>Lbs/Acre</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Barley	3053	3779000
Beans-dry	1768	1495000
Corn -grain	8568	78570000
Corn -silage	37400	5965000
Cotton	813	7568700
Flax	941	354000
Hay	4860	60152000
Oats	2038	1400000
Peanuts	3426	1534000
Peas-dry	1448	847300
Rice	6846	2976000
Rye	1663	269000
Safflower	1592	202000
Sorghum -grain	3640	7271000
Soybeans	2382	74681000
Sunflowers	1429	2516500
Wheat -durum	1956	2574000
Wheat -other spring	2430	13517000
Wheat -winter	2826	39608000

<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>Lbs/Acre</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Artichokes	13000	8800
Beans-snap	7613	288700
Broccoli	15800	126900
Cabbage	37300	65760
Cantaloupes	26900	71730
Carrots	36367	89640
Cauliflower	18100	36700
Celery	70800	28300
Garlic	16800	25440
Melons-honeydew	21500	17200
Lettuce	31791	278400
Onions	48900	153490
Peas -green	3980	134800
Peppers -bell	31200	50900
Potatoes	39600	1046900
Spinach	16667	45130
Squash	15800	42400
Sweet Corn	14405	593880
Sweet Potatoes	19000	97300
Tomatoes	69011	401750
Watermelons	31900	125550

Table 3: Organic Production in Comparison to National Production  
2008

<b>Fruit/Nuts/Berries</b>	<b>% of National Acres</b>	<b>Per Acre Yield Difference %</b>
Apples	5.7	-11
Avocados	5.1	0
Cherries-sweet	2.5	-12
Cherries-tart	0.8	-77
Dates	9.5	-23
Figs	13.5	-47
Grapefruit	2.0	-50
Grapes	2.9	-57
Lemons	2.4	-35
Oranges	1.0	-60
Peaches	1.5	-41
Pears	3.7	-31
Plums/Prunes	3.4	+3
Tangerines	2.0	-75
Almonds	0.7	-46
Hazelnuts	0.5	-17
Pecans	0.6	+14
Pistachios	0.8	-28
Walnuts	1.9	-48
Blackberries	7.3	-49
Blueberries-Tame	3.2	-47
Cranberries	0.9	-60
Raspberries	4.1	-4
Strawberries	2.9	-42

<b>Field Crops</b>	<b>% of National Acres</b>	<b>Per Acre Yield Difference %</b>
Barley	1.2	-30
Beans-dry	0.8	-19
Corn -grain	0.2	-28
Corn -silage	0.4	-20
Cotton	0.1	-31
Flax	3.9	-32
Hay	0.7	+10
Oats	2.9	-14
Peanuts	0.5	-22
Peas-dry	0.9	-27
Rice	0.9	-41
Rye	3.4	-9
Safflower	2.4	-69
Sorghum -grain	0.1	-57
Soybeans	0.1	-34
Sunflowers	0.3	-36
Wheat -durum	0.9	-41
Wheat -other spring	0.7	-34
Wheat -winter	0.5	-40

<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>% of National Acres</b>	<b>Per Acre Yield Difference %</b>
Artichokes	5.5	-77
Beans-snap	1.8	-21
Broccoli	3.8	-28
Cabbage	1.5	-58
Cantaloupes	2.8	-47
Carrots	9.2	-64
Cauliflower	5.5	-27
Celery	5.3	-51
Garlic	4.0	-59
Melons-honeydew	1.8	-34
Lettuce	12.6	-70
Onions	2.7	-33
Peas -green	4.9	+2
Peppers -bell	1.7	-55
Potatoes	0.8	-28
Spinach	17.1	-63
Squash	8.1	-26
Sweet Corn	1.1	-23
Sweet Potatoes	4.4	+23
Tomatoes	2.2	-35
Watermelons	1.0	-30