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NIFA

FACT SHEET

ORGANIC RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

ON 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
$199,760

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
$196,656

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

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