

Indiana

Midwest grain and dairy state building organic infrastructure at the crossroads of Midwest supply chains



MIDWEST
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

A FARMER'S TOOLKIT
State Module | August 2026

Indiana ranks 7th nationally with 1,028 certified organic operations and 97,045 certified acres. Indiana's organic sector is emerging from the shadows of its dominant conventional corn-soy identity. With \$8.4M in OREI/ORG funding and Purdue Extension's statewide network, Indiana is building organic grain, dairy, and vegetable supply chains that serve both Indianapolis's growing consumer market and Midwest regional food processors.

1,028 CERTIFIED OPERATIONS	97,045 CERTIFIED ACRES	\$8.4M OREI / ORG FUNDING	+22% MORE WORKERS VS. CONVENTIONAL
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STATE PROFILE AT A GLANCE

Certified operations	1,028 (7th nationally)
Certified organic acres	97,045
OREI / ORG funding (cumulative)	\$8.4M
Worker employment vs. conventional	+22%
Split operations	49% of farms

OPPORTUNITIES & BARRIERS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Transition conventional grain acres to supply Midwest organic feed and food processing demand.
- Expand organic dairy leveraging northern Indiana's existing dairy infrastructure and cooperative networks.
- Supply Indianapolis metro's growing organic consumer market through regional food hubs and direct channels.

TOP ORGANIC COMMODITIES

- ▶ **Soybeans & Corn:** Indiana's largest organic category is feed grain production.
- ▶ **Dairy:** northern Indiana serves Midwest cooperative organic milk supply.
- ▶ **Vegetables:** organic vegetable farms near Indianapolis supply CSAs and markets.
- ▶ **Poultry & Eggs:** organic eggs leverage Indiana's poultry and feed grain base.

BARRIERS

- GMO drift and contamination risk from dense conventional corn-soy acres creates organic grain certification risk.
- Limited organic grain elevator and aggregation infrastructure outside of established cooperative networks.
- Conventional poultry contract dominance creates competition for land and transition-period income support.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Indiana's organic sector is at an inflection point: 49% split operations and nearly 190,000 certified acres show the sector is real and growing, but the transition of Indiana's vast conventional corn-soy acres represents a transformative opportunity. Midwest TOPP mentorship and Purdue Extension's organic research are the critical catalysts.

Resources for Farmers

Indiana organic farmers are supported by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Purdue Extension, Indiana Certified Organic, and Midwest TOPP. Together they deliver state certification resources, production research, farmer peer networks, and market development support.

Indiana State Dept of Agriculture

STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

- Organic Certification Cost Share: federal pass-through, up to \$750/yr
- Indiana Grown branding program for state-produced organic products
- NRCS Indiana: EQIP Organic Initiative and Transition Assistance programs
- Beginning Farmer programs and agricultural development loan resources

in.gov/isda

Purdue Extension

RESEARCH, EXTENSION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Organic grain, dairy, vegetable, and poultry production specialists
- Throckmorton Purdue Agricultural Center: organic systems field research
- Soil health, cover crop, and weed management research for organic transition
- 92-county extension network delivering statewide organic outreach

extension.purdue.edu

Indiana Certified Organic

CERTIFICATION & FARMER NETWORKS

- Indiana-based USDA-accredited organic certifier serving Midwest producers
- Certification services for grain, dairy, vegetable, and livestock operations
- Farmer network and educational events for Indiana organic producers
- Organic transition planning and certification guidance support

indianacertifiedorganic.com

Midwest TOPP (MOSA-led)

MENTORSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Serves AR, IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, OH, TN, WI
- Paid organic mentor matching for grain, dairy, and diversified farms
- Workshops on organic grain transition, cover crops, and dairy conversion
- Market access support for organic grain, dairy, and vegetable operations

organictransition.org/region/midwest

DID YOU KNOW? INDIANA

Indiana is one of the top poultry-producing states in the country, and organic poultry and eggs command premiums of 100% or more above conventional prices. Indiana's established poultry processing infrastructure and organic grain production base create a natural synergy for organic poultry and egg expansion. Organic eggs and chicken are among the fastest-growing organic categories nationally. Midwest TOPP mentorship connects Indiana grain farmers with organic poultry and dairy operators who need local feed supply, creating integrated organic supply chains within the state.

KEY SOURCES

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