

Nevada

Desert state builds organic sector on high-value crops, rangelands, and Las Vegas market demand



Nevada ranks 35th nationally with 125 certified organic operations and 411,523 certified acres. Nevada's organic sector is defined by its extremes: vast certified rangeland in the north serving organic beef markets, and intensively managed organic vegetable and herb operations near Las Vegas and Reno supplying some of the West's highest-volume hospitality and restaurant markets. The state's arid climate, when combined with irrigation from the Truckee, Carson, and Humboldt rivers, supports productive organic operations in the western valleys. The Nevada Division of Agriculture and University of Nevada Extension anchor organic technical support statewide.

125 CERTIFIED OPERATIONS	411,523 CERTIFIED ACRES	\$14M ORGANIC SALES	Growing SECTOR TRAJECTORY
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STATE PROFILE AT A GLANCE

Certified operations	125 (35th nationally)
Certified organic acres	411,523
Organic sales value	\$14 million
Worker employment vs. conventional	+20%
Split operations	40% of farms

OPPORTUNITIES & BARRIERS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop farm-to-hotel and farm-to-restaurant organic supply chains in Las Vegas, leveraging its position as the world's largest hospitality market for premium food.
- Expand certified organic rangeland beef certification on Nevada's vast public land rangelands, which have historically low input use facilitating organic transition.
- Invest in organic cold storage and distribution infrastructure to support year-round organic supply to Nevada's hospitality and retail markets.

TOP ORGANIC COMMODITIES

- ▶ **Beef Cattle:** Great Basin rangelands support organic and grass-fed beef.
- ▶ **Vegetables & Herbs:** organic vegetables and herbs near Las Vegas supply restaurants.
- ▶ **Alfalfa & Hay:** Nevada irrigated valleys supply organic dairy feed in the West.
- ▶ **Specialty Crops:** organic garlic, onions, and specialty vegetables for LV markets.

BARRIERS

- Severe water scarcity and ongoing drought conditions in the Great Basin create significant production risk for irrigated organic operations.
- Limited organic processing and aggregation infrastructure makes it difficult for Nevada organic producers to reach wholesale and institutional buyers.
- Geographic isolation and small farm population create thin farmer networks and limited peer learning opportunities for organic transition support.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Nevada's organic sector has two powerful growth engines: vast rangeland beef potential in the north and extraordinary hospitality market demand in Las Vegas that represents a uniquely high-volume organic buyer accessible to no other state in the same way.

Resources for Farmers

Nevada organic farmers are supported by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and the Southwest TOPP region. These partners deliver certification, research, and technical assistance resources across Nevada's diverse and geographically challenging agricultural landscape.

Nevada Department of Agriculture

STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

- Organic Certification Cost Share: federal pass-through, up to \$750/yr
- Nevada Grown branding and marketing support for certified organic products
- NRCS Nevada: EQIP Organic Initiative, Transition Assistance, and RCPP programs
- State agricultural development grants for organic processing and market development

agri.nv.gov

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

RESEARCH, EXTENSION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Organic vegetable, rangeland beef, and hay crop research and extension specialists
- Arid-climate organic production and water conservation research programs
- Soil health, drip irrigation, and integrated pest management for organic systems
- 17-county extension network delivering local organic technical assistance statewide

extension.unr.edu

Nevada Small Business Development Center

FARMER ADVOCACY & PEER LEARNING

- Business planning and financial management support for organic farm enterprises
- Market development and hospitality industry connection resources for organic producers
- Beginning farmer support and enterprise diversification resources
- Connections to Nevada agricultural loan and grant programs for organic producers

nevadasbdc.org

Southwest TOPP (CCOF-led)

MENTORSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Serves AZ, CA, HI, NM, NV, TX, UT
- Paid organic mentor matching for rangeland beef, vegetable, and alfalfa operations
- Workshops on organic transition, arid-climate management, and certification
- Market access and hospitality industry connections for Nevada organic producers

organictransition.org/region/west-southwest

DID YOU KNOW? NEVADA

Las Vegas's 40 million annual visitors make it the single largest concentration of restaurant and hospitality food purchasing in the United States, creating extraordinary organic market demand within Nevada's borders. Nevada organic producers who can supply Las Vegas casinos, hotels, and restaurants with certified organic produce, herbs, and specialty crops access buyers with both the volume and the premium budget to absorb organic price points. University of Nevada Extension's farm business resources and Southwest TOPP's mentor network are helping Nevada organic producers develop the supply chain relationships to tap this unmatched opportunity.

KEY SOURCES

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2022 Census of Agriculture. USDA NASS, 2024.

Nevada Department of Agriculture. Organic Certification Program. NDA, 2023.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Organic Agriculture Programs. UNCE, 2023.

Nevada Tourism and Hospitality Research. Las Vegas Visitor Statistics. LVCVA, 2023.

Find additional resources at:
organictransition.org/region/national

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THE ORGANIC SPECIALISTS



NATIONAL
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

