

Oklahoma

Sooner State organic sector grows on winter wheat, cattle transition, and urban market development



A FARMER'S TOOLKIT
State Module | August 2026

Oklahoma ranks **43rd nationally with 86 certified organic operations and 36,066 certified acres**. Oklahoma's organic sector is emerging, led by organic winter wheat on the state's central plains, diversified vegetable and livestock operations in the Cross Timbers and Ozark regions, and a growing direct-market scene in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The state's strong cattle production heritage provides a natural pathway for organic and grass-fed beef development. The Oklahoma Food and Farm Coalition and Oklahoma State University Extension are the primary anchors of organic technical and organizational support.

86 CERTIFIED OPERATIONS	36,066 CERTIFIED ACRES	\$24M ORGANIC SALES	Growing SECTOR TRAJECTORY
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STATE PROFILE

AT A GLANCE

Certified operations	86 (43rd nationally)
Certified organic acres	36,066
Organic sales value	\$24 million
Worker employment vs. conventional	+22%
Split operations	44% of farms

OPPORTUNITIES & BARRIERS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop certified organic winter wheat as a signature Oklahoma organic commodity with direct connections to regional organic flour milling and baking supply chains.
- Expand certified organic and grass-fed beef supply chains leveraging Oklahoma's vast rangeland and cattle production infrastructure and expertise.
- Build farmers market and CSA capacity in Oklahoma City and Tulsa to serve growing urban consumer demand for locally grown organic food.

TOP ORGANIC COMMODITIES

- ▶ **Winter Wheat:** red winter wheat belt supplies organic flour millers statewide.
- ▶ **Beef Cattle:** ranching heritage supports organic and grass-fed beef transition.
- ▶ **Vegetables:** organic vegetable farms near OKC and Tulsa supply direct markets.
- ▶ **Pecans:** Oklahoma pecan orchards transition to organic for premium markets.

BARRIERS

- Conventional wheat and cattle market infrastructure creates economic inertia against organic transition for large-scale Oklahoma producers.
- Extreme weather variability including drought, hail, and tornado risk creates production uncertainty, particularly during the organic transition period.
- Limited organic processing and distribution infrastructure constrains market access for organic grain and livestock producers in rural Oklahoma.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Oklahoma's organic sector is positioned for meaningful growth built on its winter wheat heritage, vast cattle rangelands, and two major urban markets hungry for local organic food. Central Plains TOPP mentorship and OSU Extension are the key accelerants for this transition.

Resources for Farmers

Oklahoma organic farmers are supported by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Oklahoma State University Extension, the Oklahoma Food and Farm Coalition, and the Central Plains TOPP region. These partners deliver certification, technical assistance, and market development resources statewide.

Oklahoma Dept of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

- Organic Certification Cost Share: federal pass-through, up to \$750/yr
- Oklahoma Made and Oklahoma Grown branding support for certified organic products
- NRCS Oklahoma: EQIP Organic Initiative and Organic Transition Assistance programs
- Agricultural development grants for organic processing and market infrastructure

oda.state.ok.us

Oklahoma State University Extension

RESEARCH, EXTENSION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Organic wheat, beef, pecan, and vegetable production research and extension specialists
- OSU organic systems research and on-farm demonstration programs statewide
- Soil health, cover cropping, and integrated pest management for organic transition
- 77-county extension network delivering local organic technical assistance statewide

extension.okstate.edu

Oklahoma Food and Farm Coalition

FARMER ADVOCACY & PEER LEARNING

- Oklahoma's primary sustainable and organic food and farm advocacy network
- Producer education, peer networking, and organic market development programs
- Urban agriculture and direct-market support in Oklahoma City and Tulsa
- Farmer-to-farmer peer learning and beginning organic producer mentorship

okfoodandfarm.org

Central Plains TOPP (OCIA-led)

MENTORSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Serves CO, KS, ND, NE, OK, SD
- Paid organic mentor matching for wheat, beef, vegetable, and pecan operations
- Workshops on organic transition, Great Plains grain management, and certification
- Market access and organic buyer connection resources for Oklahoma producers

organictransition.org/region/plains

DID YOU KNOW? OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma's cattle ranching heritage and vast native rangeland make it one of the most naturally positioned states in the nation for expanded certified organic and grass-fed beef production. Oklahoma's native prairie grasses and historically low-input rangelands create organic transition conditions that are far less challenging than converting row-crop acres. With premium organic and grass-fed beef markets growing at double-digit rates nationally, Oklahoma cattle ranchers who pursue certification gain access to buyers offering significant price premiums over conventional cattle markets.

KEY SOURCES

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

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Organic Program. ODAFF, 2023.

Oklahoma Food and Farm Coalition. Programs and Resources. OKFFC, 2023.

Oklahoma State University Extension. Sustainable Agriculture Programs. OSU Extension, 2023.

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

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NATIONAL
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

