

Wyoming

Cowboy State grows organic on high-altitude rangeland beef and dryland grain traditions



A FARMER'S TOOLKIT
State Module | August 2026

Wyoming ranks 44th nationally with 79 certified organic operations and 138,183 certified acres. Wyoming's organic sector is defined by scale and terrain: vast rangeland in the south and east supporting certified organic and grass-fed beef operations, dryland grain in the northeast, and specialty organic vegetable farms near Cheyenne, Casper, and Jackson Hole. The state's historically low chemical input use on rangeland and the strong ethic of land stewardship in ranching communities create natural conditions for organic transition. Wyoming Business Council and the University of Wyoming Extension provide the primary technical support for organic producers.

79 CERTIFIED OPERATIONS	138,183 CERTIFIED ACRES	\$16M ORGANIC SALES	Growing SECTOR TRAJECTORY
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STATE PROFILE AT A GLANCE

Certified operations	79 (44th nationally)
Certified organic acres	138,183
Organic sales value	\$16 million
Worker employment vs. conventional	+18%
Split operations	36% of farms

OPPORTUNITIES & BARRIERS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop certified organic grass-fed beef supply chains leveraging Wyoming's vast native rangeland, nationally recognized beef quality, and Jackson Hole premium buyer proximity.
- Expand organic dryland grain production in northeast Wyoming and connect producers with regional organic grain processors in the northern plains.
- Build Jackson Hole organic direct-market connections between Wyoming producers and the region's high-income resort community and visitor economy.

TOP ORGANIC COMMODITIES

- ▶ **Beef Cattle:** high-altitude rangelands support certified organic grass-fed beef.
- ▶ **Wheat & Grain:** organic dryland winter wheat supplies regional grain processors.
- ▶ **Hay & Alfalfa:** organic hay and alfalfa in irrigated valleys for western dairy feed.
- ▶ **Vegetables & Specialty:** organic vegetable farms near Cheyenne and Jackson Hole serve markets.

BARRIERS

- Extreme weather including late frosts, hail, drought, and early winter create significant production risk, particularly during the organic transition period.
- Very low population density and limited organic processing infrastructure constrain market access for Wyoming organic producers beyond direct-market channels.
- Geographic isolation and long distances to organic processors and major markets increase transportation costs and reduce organic premium capture.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Wyoming's extensive native rangeland and strong ranching heritage create a natural foundation for certified organic grass-fed beef development, while Jackson Hole's premium resort economy provides a high-value organic market opportunity that few other rural states can access.

Resources for Farmers

Wyoming organic farmers are supported by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, University of Wyoming Extension, the Wyoming Business Council, and the Northwest TOPP region. These partners deliver certification, technical assistance, and market development resources across the state's vast agricultural landscape.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

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

wyoag.gov

University of Wyoming Extension

RESEARCH, EXTENSION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Organic rangeland beef, dryland grain, hay, and vegetable research and extension
- UW high-altitude organic systems research and dryland farming programs
- Soil health, cover crops, and rangeland management for organic transition
- 23-county extension network delivering local organic technical assistance statewide

uwyo.edu/uwextension

Wyoming Business Council

FARMER ADVOCACY & PEER LEARNING

- Wyoming state economic development agency supporting organic and agricultural enterprises
- Farm business planning, market development, and organic enterprise grant programs
- Beginning farmer and rancher support programs and organic transition resources
- Connections to Wyoming agricultural loan and grant programs for organic producers

wyomingbusiness.org

Northwest TOPP (OTCO-led)

MENTORSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Serves AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
- Paid organic mentor matching for rangeland beef, grain, and vegetable operations
- Workshops on organic transition, high-altitude management, and certification
- Market access and Pacific Northwest buyer connections for Wyoming organic producers

organictransition.org/region/northwest

DID YOU KNOW? WYOMING

Jackson Hole, Wyoming is home to one of the highest-income resort communities in the United States, with a concentrated population of affluent visitors and residents who prioritize premium, locally sourced, and organic food. Wyoming organic producers within reach of Jackson Hole access buyers with exceptional willingness to pay for certified organic, locally raised beef, vegetables, and specialty products. The combination of the Teton County premium market and the broader resort visitor economy creates a direct-to-consumer organic sales opportunity that significantly exceeds what Wyoming's population alone would suggest.

KEY SOURCES

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

Wyoming Department of Agriculture. Organic Program. WDA, 2023.

University of Wyoming Extension. Organic Agriculture Resources. UW Extension, 2023.

Wyoming Business Council. Agricultural Development Programs. WBC, 2023.