

## January Newsletter 2023

Hello Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! This month's features are:

- The Market Corner article **The 2021 Organic Survey: The Growth of Organic Production Continues** by C-FARE Board Chair, Gal Hochman
- New Direction features articles and papers titled:
  - [Eating better: How to improve nutrition and the environmental impact of food](#)
  - [What is the World Food Program "Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis"?](#)
  - [International Food Security Assessment, 2022–32](#)
  - [Global Food Insecurity Grows in 2022 Amid Backdrop of Higher Prices, Black Sea Conflict](#)

Keep reading to learn more,

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### Market Corner

#### The 2021 Organic Survey: The Growth of Organic Production Continues

Organic production is a sustainable production system that does not involve the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and other artificial agents. During the last three decades, this sector exhibited significant growth: 3,587 organic operations in the United States in 1992 to 17,445 certified organic farmers in 2021.

Since 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducted two types of surveys of this industry: Census Special Studies (2008, 2014, 2019) and Certified Organic Survey (2011, 2015, 2016, 2021). The results of the last Organic Survey conducted in cooperation with the USDA's Risk Management Agency was [released](#) in early January, showing an increase from 2019 of \$1.28 billion in total sales, totaling \$11.2 billion in organic products in 2021. The survey also suggested a 5% increase relative to 2019 in certified organic farmers summing to 17,445 certified organic farms in 2021 (see Figure 1).

Organic production is scattered across the United States, where the top states by the value of organic sales are

1. California (\$3.55 billion)
2. Washington (\$1.14 billion)
3. Pennsylvania (\$1.09 billion)
4. Texas (\$572 million)
5. Oregon (\$386 million)

The industries size becomes even more impressive, when its compared to other key agricultural products in value of sales in 2021:

1. Livestock and poultry products: \$2.86 billion
2. Vegetables: \$1.91 billion
3. Fruits, tree nuts, and berries: \$2.20 billion
4. Livestock and poultry: \$2.20 billion
5. Field Crops: \$1.50 billion

The breakdown of the \$11.20 billion in [organic products sold](#) includes the market value sale of certified organic crops (\$6.15 billion), livestock and poultry (\$2.20 billion), and livestock and poultry products (\$2.86 billion). Besides crops (which had a 6% increase relative to 2019), the other two sectors experienced two-digit growth of 32% and 15%, respectively.

Looking more carefully at organic products produced in the US in 2021 suggests that the top five commodities sold are milk (\$1.63 billion), chicken and broilers (\$1.51 billion), eggs (\$1.22 billion), apples (\$629 million), and corn for grain (\$424 million). And that the most significant value in [marketing practices](#) is for direct-to-retail markets and institutions (\$2.02 billion), followed by value-added products (\$707 million) and direct-to-consumer (\$310 million).

Finally, organic farmers are scattered throughout the US, and for most of the states, their number increased from 2019 to 2021 (Figure 1).

**Gal Hochman, C-FARE Board Chair, Rutgers University**

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## ICYMI

- Join us at the next C-FARE webinar, **Global Food Security: What Have We Learned?**, on Friday, Jan. 20 at 12 p.m. EST on Registration is available [here](#).
  - In case you missed it, the recording of C-FARE's Webinar on "The Prevalence of Food Insecurity Across the U.S." is now available on our [website](#) and through this [recording](#).
  - Check out our fourth episode of C-FARE's podcast [Get a Grip with FARE](#) featuring Peyton Ferrier and Steve Neff from the USDA Economists Group.
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## New Directions

- **Eating better: How to improve nutrition and the environmental impact of food.** Is the food that we eat good for us? Is it good for the environment? Is it affordable, especially for women and children? While we often think of these questions separately, answering them together helps us understand where diets are today, and where they will have to be in the future to move towards healthier people and a healthier planet. [Learn More Here](#).
- **What is the World Food Program "Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis"?** This video explains the World Food Program Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Analysis. It analyses the

nutrition situation in a country and identifies the barriers faced by the most vulnerable to accessing and consuming healthy and nutritious foods. It engages all stakeholders and is used to inform policies and programming across sectors to contribute to improving nutrition. The FNG is undertaken by the Systems Analysis for Nutrition team of the WFP. [Read More Here.](#)

- **International Food Security Assessment, 2022–32.** Millions of people around the world are food insecure and do not have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. Using a demand-driven international food security assessment model, this report helps the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its stakeholders estimate food security trends in 77 low- and middle-income countries. [Read More Here.](#)
- **Global Food Insecurity Grows in 2022 Amid Backdrop of Higher Prices, Black Sea Conflict.** People are food insecure when they lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their needs for an active and healthy life, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Food availability—physical and financial—affects the prevalence of international food security. [Learn More Here.](#)