



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
2015 Certified Organic Survey – Colorado**



Mountain Region – Colorado Field Office  
P.O. Box 150969, Lakewood, CO 80215-0969  
(303) 236-2300 · (866) 314-4029 Fax · [www.nass.usda.gov/co](http://www.nass.usda.gov/co)

**Certified Organic Highlights**

The 2015 Certified Organic Survey is a survey of all operations identified as having certified organic production. Certified organic farms must meet the standards set out by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) and be certified compliant by an approved agent of NOP. Results from the survey provide acreage, production, and sales data for a variety of certified organic crops and certified organic livestock.

In 2015, the United States had 12,818 certified organic farms that produced \$6.2 billion in certified organic products. Colorado had 136 certified organic farms with 151,571 acres of certified land that produced \$155.2 million in certified organic products. Of those farms in Colorado, 48 percent were certified organic for 10 years or more.

In Colorado, 109 certified organic farms sold to wholesale markets, 43 farms sold directly to consumers, and 36 farms sold directly to retail markets and institutions. The first point of sales for 69 percent of certified organic farms in Colorado was within 100 miles of the farm and 49 percent was within 100-499 miles of the farm. Over the next five years, 44 percent of certified organic operations in Colorado plan to increase certified organic agricultural production.

For more information on the 2015 Certified Organic Survey and related reports, please visit the NASS Organic Agriculture page at: [www.nass.usda.gov/organics](http://www.nass.usda.gov/organics).

**Farms, Land, and Value of Sales on Certified Organic Farms: 2015 and 2014**

Geographic area	2015			2014		
	Total certified farms	Total certified acres	Total certified sales (\$1,000)	Total certified farms	Total certified acres	Total certified sales (\$1,000)
United States .....	12,818	4,361,849	6,163,472	12,634	3,642,933	5,451,377
Colorado.....	136	151,571	155,206	134	114,750	146,733

**Certified Organic Crops Value of Sales: 2015**

Crop	Farms	Value of sales (dollars)
All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown in the open		
United States .....	2,999	1,361,747,498
Colorado.....	42	15,627,011
All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown under protection		
United States .....	1,059	73,201,940
Colorado.....	13	996,177
All other fruits (excludes apples, grapes, all tree nuts, and all berries)		
United States .....	1,456	262,792,206
Colorado.....	11	2,987,028
All tree nuts		
United States .....	379	83,982,965
Colorado.....	(NDP)	(NDP)
All berries		
United States .....	1,436	344,634,693
Colorado.....	3	344,450
All field crops		
United States .....	4,545	660,044,049
Colorado.....	77	20,072,092

(NDP) No data present.

**Certified Organic Floriculture Crops, Nursery Crops, Propagative Materials, and Mushrooms Value of Sales: 2015**

Crop	Farms	Value of sales (dollars)
Floriculture and bedding crops		
United States .....	336	22,231,062
Colorado .....	5	845,057
Nursery crops, including aquatic plants		
United States .....	108	26,516,551
Colorado .....	1	(D)
Propagative materials sold		
United States .....	120	19,912,081
Colorado .....	(NDP)	(NDP)
Mushrooms		
United States .....	130	95,543,620
Colorado .....	2	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.  
(NDP) No data present.

**Top Certified Organic Livestock and Poultry Inventory and Sales: 2015**

Commodity	Peak inventory		Value of sales	
	Farms	Number	Number	Dollars
Milk cows				
United States .....	2,282	241,112	47,033	65,361,338
Colorado .....	3	(D)	(D)	(D)
Beef cows				
United States .....	455	40,600	5,901	8,982,291
Colorado .....	6	2,602	373	558,739
Other cattle				
United States .....	2,753	228,630	169,884	158,251,289
Colorado .....	12	10,054	17,076	11,272,886
Hogs and pigs				
United States .....	135	12,358	13,353	5,112,388
Colorado .....	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)
Chickens - layers				
United States .....	730	14,214,364	3,241,756	1,461,403
Colorado .....	11	96,242	38,550	21,888
Chickens - broilers				
United States .....	187	9,077,227	47,423,922	420,312,003
Colorado .....	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)	(NDP)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.  
(NDP) No data present.

**Top Certified Organic Livestock Products and Poultry Products Sales: 2015**

Commodity	Farms	Quantity	Dollars
Milk from cows (pounds)			
United States .....	2,258	3,406,420,618	1,173,503,904
Colorado .....	3	(D)	(D)
Chicken eggs (dozens)			
United States .....	684	292,481,855	732,037,052
Colorado .....	9	2,091,934	4,964,146

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

**Operators on Certified Organic Farms by Years Operating Any Farm: 2015**

Geographic area	Operators	Percent of operators by years operating any farm					
		Less than 10 years	10 to 19 years	20 to 29 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 or more years
United States .....	12,818	32	23	17	16	8	4
Colorado .....	136	35	21	14	22	5	3