



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



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**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. Iowa had 674 certified organic farms with 93,707 acres of certified land that produced \$120.5 million in certified organic products. Of those farms in Iowa, 44 percent were certified organic for 10 years or more.

In Iowa, 550 certified organic farms sold to wholesale markets, 133 farms sold directly to consumers, and 78 farms sold directly to retail markets and institutions. The first point of sales for 69 percent of certified organic farms in Iowa was within 100 miles of the farm and 44 percent was within 100-499 miles of the farm. Over the next five years, 29 percent of certified organic operations in Iowa 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
Iowa.....	674	93,707	120,544	593	97,186	102,529

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

Crop	Farms	Value of sales (dollars)
<b>All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown in the open</b>		
United States .....	2,999	1,361,747,498
Iowa.....	72	6,667,710
<b>All vegetables, potatoes, and melons grown under protection</b>		
United States .....	1,059	73,201,940
Iowa.....	23	264,670
<b>All other fruits (excludes apples, grapes, all tree nuts, and all berries)</b>		
United States .....	1,456	262,792,206
Iowa.....	3	3,481
<b>All tree nuts</b>		
United States .....	379	83,982,965
Iowa.....	5	8,975
<b>All berries</b>		
United States .....	1,436	344,634,693
Iowa.....	99	640,535
<b>All field crops</b>		
United States .....	4,545	660,044,049
Iowa.....	443	41,010,634

**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
Iowa .....	6	40,757
Nursery crops, including aquatic plants		
United States .....	108	26,516,551
Iowa .....	(NDP)	(NDP)
Propagative materials sold		
United States .....	120	19,912,081
Iowa .....	1	(D)
Mushrooms		
United States .....	130	95,543,620
Iowa .....	(NDP)	(NDP)

(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
Iowa .....	77	4,049	755	997,365
Beef cows				
United States .....	455	40,600	5,901	8,982,291
Iowa .....	19	786	98	(D)
Other cattle				
United States .....	2,753	228,630	169,884	158,251,289
Iowa .....	102	4,022	2,542	2,622,817
Hogs and pigs				
United States .....	135	12,358	13,353	5,112,388
Iowa .....	8	4,310	4,914	1,700,322
Chickens - layers				
United States .....	730	14,214,364	3,241,756	1,461,403
Iowa .....	72	763,816	214,656	173,436
Chickens - broilers				
United States .....	187	9,077,227	47,423,922	420,312,003
Iowa .....	14	404,272	1,854,752	12,668,697

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

**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
Iowa .....	75	46,173,786	15,780,667
Chicken eggs (dozens)			
United States .....	684	292,481,855	732,037,052
Iowa .....	72	15,373,257	34,649,533

**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
Iowa .....	674	33	24	15	17	8	3