

2008 PROGRESS REPORT: ORGANIC CROPPING RESEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST

TITLE: Economic trends in organic production.

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DATE (period which report covers): January – December 2008

KEYWORDS: acres, crops, livestock, Washington, Oregon

ABSTRACT:

Statistics on the organic sectors in Washington and Oregon are produced annually with data from the main certifiers. Oregon experienced a 40% increase in certified acres in 2007, with forage crops the dominant category. Washington acres were up by 26%, with forage, processed vegetables, and tree fruit the main crops. A large increase in organic apples did occur in 2008 (up 60%), with another 4,000 acres in transition. This represents a near doubling of area since 2005. Farm gate sales of organic food represented over \$140 million in value in 2006, and will likely exceed \$200 million for 2007. Continued growth of the sector is expected, but perhaps at a slower rate due to the recession. Acreage is growing faster than number of farms, but organic land still represents less than 1% of all cropland in the state. All data and reports are put on line at <http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicStats.htm>.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Produce an annual profile of organic production in Washington State.
2. Produce an annual profile of organic production in Oregon.

PROCEDURES:

Reports for Washington and Oregon were completed for crop year 2007, based on data collected from the main certifiers working in the two states. Reports have been put on line and results presented in numerous venues. Data for 2008 have been collected and are being processed. WSDA and Oregon Tilth are the primary certifiers, but additional certifiers (10 in Oregon, 3 in Washington) will be contacted for 2008 data. A draft organic tree fruit report for 2008 has been developed. Work on the 2008 state reports is proceeding. Completion is expected in June 2009. In addition, we were asked to develop a global profile of organic temperate fruit production for the International Organic Fruit Symposium in Vignola, Italy. This was not in our original workplan, but did overlap with our desire to provide national and international data on organic tree fruit. It also forged a new relationship with the key personnel at IFOAM/FiBL working with global organic statistics.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES (Comparison of actual results with the original goals):

The 2007 reports for Oregon, Washington, and tree fruit were completed and put on line. Our reports for 2007 for Washington and Oregon were provided to USDA-ERS as part of their national update. All 2008 crop data from WSDA and OTCO data have been collected and they are being cleaned and collated to produce the state totals. Livestock data from Oregon Tilth were inconsistent this year, thus an update on dairy cow numbers may not be possible. WSDA livestock data will also be collected. The organic tree fruit data for 2008 are complete and a report has been drafted. The global organic temperate fruit profile was completed, with results delivered at the Symposium as well as a summary included in the upcoming *World of Organic Agriculture* publication from IFOAM/FiBL. In addition to developing the 2008 reports, there were numerous extension activities with the 2007 reports. Presentations on the trends data were delivered at 12 grower meetings in the state, at two international conferences, at the BIOAg Symposium in Pullman, and to five groups of international visitors.

OUTPUTS (Publications including newsletter articles, workshops and meetings, presentations, web sites or pages, field days):

Publications

Kirby, E. and D. Granatstein. 2008. Profile of organic crops in Washington State – 2007. WSU CSANR, Wenatchee, WA. 18 pp.

http://organic.tfrec.wsu.edu/organicstats/wa_certacres_07.pdf

Granatstein, D. and E. Kirby. 2008. Washington State, national, and international status of organic tree fruit – 2007. WSU CSANR, Wenatchee, WA. 26 pp.

http://organic.tfrec.wsu.edu/OrganicStats/OrgTreeFruitReport_Feb08.pdf

Granatstein, D., E. Kirby, and H. Willer. 2008. Current World Status of Organic Temperate Fruits. Submitted to Acta Hort.

Kirby, E. and D. Granatstein. 2008. Organic tree fruit production continues to expand. Proc. Wash. St. Hort. Assoc. 2007 Annual Meeting, Wenatchee, WA.

Granatstein, D. and E. Kirby. 2008. Recent trends in organic tree fruit production. Proc. Wash. St. Hort. Assoc. 2008 Annual Meeting, Yakima, WA. Submitted.

Granatstein, D. Organic apple production and markets in the USA. *Obstbau Weinbau* 45(10):319-321.

Media

Data used in *Good Fruit Grower* article, May 1, 2008, 20-23.

Data summarized in *Organic boom in Washington State. World Apple Report p.4*, August 2008.

Data cited in cover story "*Organic Explosion: The tremendous growth in organic growing has spread to the processing crops of Washington in a big way.*" David Eddy, Senior Western Editor, *American Vegetable Grower*, Feb. 2008 pp 8-9.

Presentations.

Organic tree fruit trends; G.S. Long Inc., Yakima. 240

Organic cherries; Cherry Institute, Yakima. 120

Organic pear trends; Pear Day, Wenatchee. 160

Introduction to organic agriculture; Ag Lenders workshop, Banner Bank, Walla Walla. 50
Organic agriculture; Simplot Soilbuilders, Yakima. 25
Organic tree fruit trends; Wilbur-Ellis, Sunnyside. 65
Current status of organic ag in Washington; WSU IAREC seminar, Prosser. 20
Organic agriculture in Washington; WSU Crops and Soils graduate students, Wenatchee. 16
Organic ag trends; Washington Rural Appraisers Assoc., Richland. 40
World status of organic temperate fruits; ISHS Intl. Organic Fruit Symp., Vignola, Italy. 120
Current status of organic agriculture in Washington; BIOAg Symposium, Pullman. 65
Organic apple markets and trends in the USA; INTERPOMA, Bolzano, Italy. 170
Recent trends in organic tree fruit; Wash. St. Hort. Assoc. Annual Meeting, Yakima. 180
Organic trees and vines; FarWest Agribusiness Assoc., Kennewick, WA. 40

Web site

Updated the Organic Ag Statistics web site <http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicStats.htm> with reports and powerpoint presentations.

IMPACT (In what way has your work influenced organic agricultural practices, economics/marketing and environmental stewardship):

We receive numerous requests for the annual organic agriculture statistics data which serve a broad spectrum of users from both public and private sectors, national and international. Over 50 requests were received in 2008. Data were used extensively in the apple industry due to our projections of major supply increases in 2008. Based on transition acres, growth will likely level off as our data and the price response to the growth will temper growers' incentive to transition more apple acres. Price premiums for organic apples are already shrinking for the 2008 crop. Some examples of how our numbers were used this year are given below.

Data requested/used in presentations or publications during 2008 to educate, complement grant proposals, facilitate government commodity programs, etc.

- *WSDA Future of Farming Project Report, Appendix.* Michele Catalano.
- *Toward One Oregon – Rural-Urban Interdependence Conference.* 11/14/08, Salem OR. Data presented by Sheila Martin, Director, Institute of Metropolitan Studies, Portland State Univ.
- Farm bill allocation formula revisions, USDA-NRCS Oregon office, Chad Cherefcio. County level data used to develop allocation formula revisions (based on watersheds/counties) for potential Farm Bill \$ (EQIP) designated for specialty crop (organic) production.
- Organic potato numbers requested by Alec McErlich, Small Planet Foods, as part of development of the *Organic Potato Pest Management Plan for the PNW.*
- Oregon data were requested by Lane Selman, OSU, and used in a proposal to the Oregon Governor concerning Organically Grown in Oregon Week.
- Organic dairy data requested by Marcy Ostrom and submitted to Tom Kriegel, UW-Madison Center for Dairy Profitability for use in a research grant proposal on organic dairy economics.
- Data provided to Catherine Greene, Senior Agricultural Economist, USDA-ERS. Oregon and Washington OTCO and WSDA compiled numbers for 2006 and 2007 crop years were provided to be included in the ERS national organic commodity tables update.

- King Co. data requested by Warren Flint (Five E's Unlimited) and used for sustainable development project planning.

Data collection and international impacts:

- Working with Cathy Greene, we facilitated some changes to the ERS national organic crop survey form intended to improve, clarify or expand data collection. Suggested additional fruit categories including berries, subtropical fruit and other tree fruit were added to current survey form along with footnotes to clarify dairy livestock categories. Next survey round will hopefully include additional vegetable categories to break out sweet corn, peas and onions which are important Washington crops and we often receive requests for national numbers which don't exist. Currently these crops are included in an unclassified vegetables category.
- Zentrale Markt- und Preisberichtsstelle für Erzeugnisse der Land-, Forst- und Ernährungswirtschaft (ZMP) a German marketing organization tracks European and international area and production of organic crops. ZMP is currently using the US numbers for apple and pear submitted from our project. We have also cooperated by sharing numbers and data sources we have obtained from other countries such as Argentina.
- Helga Willer (FiBL) and ZMP implemented improvements to fruit categories for the Organic Farming in Europe and the World of Organic Agriculture Statistics template/survey forms to improve international consistency in data collection and usefulness. Changes were made based on our input while writing the global organic fruit report.

INSTITUTION: WSU

STATE: WA, OR, national, international

FUNDING SOURCE(S) (list matching funds if applicable):

CSANR Organic Cropping Research grant

FUNDING AMOUNT(S): \$12,498

ORGANIC RESEARCH LAND (indicate number of acres on all that apply):

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Station | <input type="checkbox"/> non-organic | <input type="checkbox"/> transitional | <input type="checkbox"/> certified |
| On-farm | <input type="checkbox"/> non-organic | <input type="checkbox"/> transitional | <input type="checkbox"/> certified |

FARMER COOPERATOR(S): Number _____

Name(s) _____