

# Organic Perspectives

## Special Edition: Updates and Reports

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### Next Newsletter in January 2006

This edition is dedicated to recent news on the international organic issues and markets. For further information, contact Angela Thomas, (202) 720-1533, [Angela.Thomas@fas.usda.gov](mailto:Angela.Thomas@fas.usda.gov).

### Funding Opportunities from CSREES for Organic Agriculture Projects

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (CSREES) awards competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and higher education activities, as well as for projects that integrate research, education, and extension functions. Through the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, CSREES is able to fund research and/or extension that will enhance organic producers' and processors' abilities to grow and market high-quality organic agricultural products. To learn more about available or anticipated competitive grants or cooperative agreements administered by CSREES, visit

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/funding.cfm>

To learn more about the general CSREES program in organic agriculture, visit

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/organicagriculture>

### National Organic Standards Board to meet

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) will meet November 16-17, 2005, at the Channel inn hotel (in the Captain's room), 650 Water Street, SW, Washington, D.C. Meeting sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on November 16 and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on November 17. All sessions are open to the public. The NOSB is a 15 member board that advises the Secretary on all aspects of the National Organic Program and develops and recommends a proposed National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. NOSB Committee (Crops, Livestock, and Handling) will present and propose, to the board, recommendations concerning the continued use or prohibition of substances being reviewed under the Organic Food Production Act's sunset provisions for the National List of Approved and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB will also receive an update from the National organic Program (NOP) and hear committee progress reports regarding work plans and proposed actions.

For additional information, see the NOP's home page at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

### Economic Research Service Organic Production Data Presented, 1992-2003

ERS collected data from USDA-accredited State and private certification groups to calculate the extent of certified organic farmland acreage and livestock in the United States. The next update of the organic production data series is expected to contain estimates for 2002. These estimates should appear in November 2006 as an update to this ERS Data product.

For more information, go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Organic/index.htm> or contact [Catherine.Greene@ers.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Greene@ers.usda.gov).

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## Surge in Organic Products on Restaurant Menus

According to the National Restaurant Association's 2005 Restaurant Industry Forecast, more and more organic and natural products are finding their way onto restaurant menus. The forecast shows that 46 percent of family-dining restaurant operators, 39 percent of casual dining operators, and 48 percent of fine dining operators report more orders for organic items now than they did two years ago. As a result, restaurants are responding to consumer demand by offering them more organic food choices. The Restaurant Industry Forecast gives in-depth analyses of the industry's prospects for the remainder of this year and discusses trends observed throughout the industry by operators as well as customers.

For more information, go to <http://www.restaurant.org/research/forecast.cfm>.

## Changes to Japanese Organic Standards

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) has issued a notification on changes to its organic standards for agricultural products to the World Trade Organization. According to the notification, the changes will clarify some vague parts of the existing standards and update the list of permitted substances. Several chemicals have been added to the list and several have been taken off. The comment period ended July 13, 2005. Given the high demand for organic foods and drinks in Japan, the number of Japan Agricultural Standard approved certification agencies has increased from 30 in 2001 to over 130 in 2002. As organic sales have increased, so have the number and complexity of organic farming standards, regulations, rules, and certifying agencies.

To read the full report on Japan, please refer to <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130194.pdf>.



## Natural Products Expo East/Organic Products Expo Heads to Baltimore

More than 20,000 industry members and retail buyers convened in Washington, DC over the weekend of September 15-18, 2005, for the annual Natural Products Expo East/Organic Products Expo-BioFach America tradeshow. Attendees from 72 countries navigated more than 1,700 exhibits, representing over 1,100 companies. Baltimore, Maryland will be home to natural Products Expo East next year, a change that reflects retail buyer preferences and that will better serve all attendee needs. The show, set for October 4-7, 2006, will switch from a Thursday-Sunday format to a Wednesday-Saturday format.

For more information, go to <http://www.expoeast.com>

## Taiwan: Organic Opportunities for the Future

The time is right for U.S. exporters to promote their organic food products in the Taiwan market. Many inquiries are received from Taiwan companies about U.S. organic food suppliers and the products Americans can export to help meet Taiwan's rising consumer demands. Consumer demand for organic products has been growing and has surpassed many forecasts. Commonly imported processed organic foods include pasta and canned soups, along with vegetable oils, such as olive oil and sunflower oil.

Taiwan's Council of Agriculture (COA) will introduce a new organic seal in January 2006 until the new Agricultural Safety Bill becomes law. The new Agricultural Safety Bill and the COA organic seal seem to represent steps in the right direction for the organic market in Taiwan. With its high organic price level and the fast growth of its market, Taiwan will certainly become an even more interesting target for U.S. organic exporters in the years to come.

To read the full report on Taiwan, please refer to <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200510/146131309.pdf>.

## USDA News

### FAS Organic Products Web Site

The FAS Organic Products Web site at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/organics/organics.html> offers constant updates in the "Hot Markets" section. Visit the page frequently for the latest news!

The most recent FAS international reports on organics markets and issues includes:

- [Taiwan Market Development Reports: Organic Market 2005](#)
- [Japan: Changes to Japanese Organic Standards 2005](#)

FAS will continue to gather useful and informative data on these markets and will keep you informed as it becomes available.

### Trade Shows: Upcoming Event 2006

#### **BioFach Germany (Nuremberg, February 16-19, 2006)**

We invite you to exhibit your products under the USA Pavilion at BioFach, the world's largest organic trade event. The FAS Trade Show Office is partnering with B-FOR International and the FAS Office of Agricultural Affairs at the American Embassy in Berlin in organizing a USA Pavilion. BioFach, held annually, is the world's largest organic trade show.

For more information on exhibiting at this international event, contact Sharon Cook in the USDA/FAS Trade Show Office at [Sharon.Cook@usda.gov](mailto:Sharon.Cook@usda.gov) or (202) 720-3425.



#### **All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show (Chicago, Illinois, May 6-9, 2006)**

The Organic Trade Association will return to McCormick Place in Chicago for its 2006 All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show. Visit The Organic Trade Association web site at [www.ota.com](http://www.ota.com).

## Upcoming Events

For a complete list of events, visit the FAS Organic Products Web site '[Calendar of Events for the Organic Industry](#)'.

### International

- **November 30 – December 2, 2005** – Natural Products Expo Asia. Hong Kong, China. For more information visit <http://www.naturalproductsasia.com>.
- **December 68, 2005** – Middle East Natural and Organic Products Expo 2005. For more information visit <http://www.globallinksdubai.com>.
- **February 16-19, 2006** – BioFach. Nuremberg, Germany. For more information visit <http://www.biofach.de/main/page.html>.
- **March 6-10, 2006** – Alimentaria. Barcelona, Spain. For more information visit <http://www.alimentaria-bcn.com>.

### Domestic

- **January 27-29, 2006** – Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Organic Farming and Gardening Conference. Syracuse, NY. For more information visit <http://www.nofany.org/events/2006conference/nofa-ny2006conference.htm>.
- **March 23-26, 2005** – Natural Products Expo West. Anaheim, CA. For more information visit <http://www.expowest.com>.

## Additional Resources:

- ❑ FAS, Processed Products Division's Organic Page <http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/organics/index.html>
- ❑ National Organic Program Web site - <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>

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Editor's Note: As publishers of *Organic Perspectives*, USDA-FAS Processed Products Division continuously strives to maintain a partnership with the organic food community by sharing information and providing export assistance through our many export program services. For more information on how we might support your company in establishing opportunities abroad, please contact us at (202) 720-1533.