

Claims under USDA Organic certification supported by regulations or science and research

Healthier products

- Organic farmers have restricted access to 64 synthetic active pest control and synthetic livestock health treatments products while over 1,450 are registered for use in non-organic farming and are approved in non-organic animal drug products.
- Over 3,000 food processing aids and additives are authorized in non-organic products while only 100 are authorized under the organic label.
- Organic processed food may only include approved processing aids and additives. Organic packaged foods have fewer ingredients associated with negative health outcomes than non-organic packaged foods.

Products support reducing greenhouse gas emission.

- Field trials have shown organic production uses 45% less energy than non-organic systems
- Non-organic systems emit nearly 40% more greenhouse gases (GHG) per pound of crop produced than organic systems.

Products increase the climate resiliency of farms.

- Studies show organic production yields up to 40% more than non-organic systems in times of drought.
- Studies show water infiltration is almost 10 times greater than non-organic soils

More nutritious products

- Organic fruits and vegetables are higher in specific nutrients. Studies have shown organic has up to 69% higher antioxidants than non-organic produce.
- Organic milk has 56% and organic beef has 47% higher healthy omega-3 fatty acid levels than non-organic counterparts.

Products protect human health.

- Organic agriculture protects nearby rural and urban communities from exposure to synthetic pesticides that may persist in the air, water, and soil.
- Occupational exposure to non-organic, confined animal operations increases antibiotic resistant bacteria in guts of workers.

Products protect animal health and welfare.

- Animals must have unrestricted outdoor access year-round and shelter must allow for animals to move, stretch and express natural behaviors.
- Organic standards require care for sick and injured animals and prohibit painful physical alterations.
- Organic standard require humane slaughter standards and suitable transport arrangements.

Products support the creation of jobs and stimulates the economy.

- In the 225 counties noted as "organic hotspots" where there are clusters of organic producers and handlers, it was found to have higher labor force, better median household income and lower unemployment and poverty rates.

Products support regeneration of soil health.

- Organic farmers are required to maintain or improve soil quality when implemented tillage and cultivation and minimize erosion.
- Organic farmers are required to manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops and animal materials vs synthetic nitrogen.

Products protect natural resources.

- Organic farmers are required to improve or maintain soil and water quality of the farm and avoid contamination of natural resources by any inputs.

Products sequester carbon.

- Organic crops and livestock production sequester carbon by promoting soil health.
- Studies have shown organic soils 13% greater soil organic matter and 44% more stable sequestered carbon than non-organic soils.

Products protect biodiversity and pollinators.

- Organic farmers are required to conserve biodiversity and create land buffer strips that can serve as pollinator habitat. Studies have shown organic farming increase biodiversity by 30% and supports 50% higher pollinator diversity.

Products do not contain GMOs and toxic pesticides.

- Organic production and handling strictly prohibits GMOs and toxic synthetic pesticides. Studies have shown that conventional crops are 4x more likely to have pesticide residues and that organic diets reduce glyphosate in people's bodies by an average of 70%.

Products regulated and enforced by the government.

- The rule is back by law from farm to shelf. No other ESG claim comes with this level of verification and oversight.
- Violators can and have been fined and jailed.

Products that are independently inspected at each step in the supply chain starting at the farm.

- Organic producers and handlers are inspected annually by accredited certifiers and products are traceable through the supply chain.
- Organic producers and handlers are subject to unannounced inspection and testing.

More claims, attributes, regulatory references and studies can be found in the **OTA's Organic Opportunity Communications toolkit and resource guide**. Please get in contact with OTA at info@ota.com to find out more.