

Organic News

Upcoming Programs

Thursday, October 15 – Friday, October 16 – Texas New Fruit Growers Conference in Rosenberg, Texas. All the information you need is below. Old or New you should find everything you need to grow fruit in Texas!

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 8:30 am to 3 pm, 2026 TEXAS WEED INFORMATION GROUP meeting held online or in-person at the Scott's Miracle Grow Lab, 3100 F&B Road, College Station, Texas. No cost to participate and 3 General CEUs will be provided for Pesticide Licenses. An organic update will be provided as well as information on new weed control technologies.

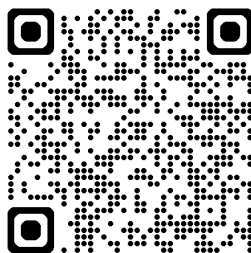


Tuesday, Oct. 20 & Thursday, October 22, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST, Online Comment Webinars for the National Organic Standards Board. Your chance to voice a concern or share an opinion to the NOSB and to USDA-NOP.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 – Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST, NOSB Virtual Meeting Online. Meeting materials, including the agenda, documents for public inspection, and public comment instructions will be posted closer to the event.

Tuesday, October 27 – Wednesday, October 28 – Western Organic Dairy Producer Alliance, Conference and Trade Show. Chico State University Farm, Chico, California. This is the 20-Year Celebration! For more information and to register: <https://wodpa.com/conference-%26-trade-show>

Tuesday, December 8th – Wednesday, December 9th – 38th Annual Texas Plant Protection Conference at the Brazos Center, Bryan, Texas. Lots of great



QR Code for Plant Prot. Conf.

programs and speakers. Farmer registration is just \$30. QR Code at bottom!

No sprayer or GMOs: Texas farmer believes in 'better way'

Check out this great article by **Shelley E. Huguley, Senior Editor with Farm Press.**

"Seminole, Texas, producer Neil Froese grows conventional and organic cotton, peanuts and sorghum. But starting next year, it's all going to organic.

No sprayer and no genetically modified seed. That's Neil

Froese's strategy as he prepares

for the 2027 production year. The Seminole, Texas, producer grows conventional and organic peanuts, cotton and sorghum, but starting next year, any

This QR code takes you to a YouTube interview with Neil Froese!



remaining conventional acres will be transitioned to organic.

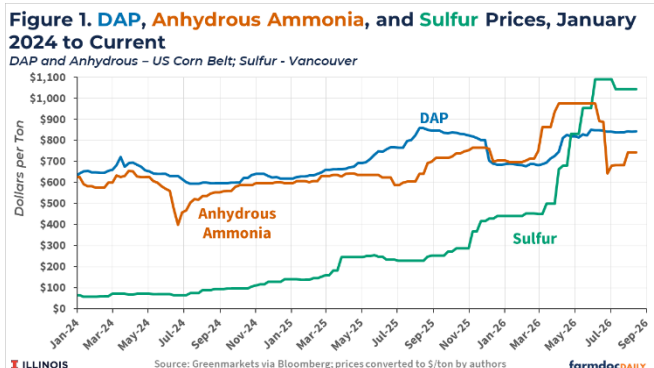
"We're going to park the sprayer and go the old-fashioned route," Froese told Farm Press at a recent Organic Cotton & Peanut Field Tour held on his farm."

If you would like to read the whole article then use this QR code: ----->



Organic Farmers Should Secure Manure and Compost Early for 2027

Harvest is underway or approaching across much of Texas, so fertilizer for next year may not be at the top of anyone's list right now. But for organic farmers, I think it deserves some attention before we get much farther into fall.



Commercial fertilizer prices have generally moved higher during 2026, particularly for nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers. Current fertilizer market reports are also raising concerns about higher fertility costs for the 2027 crop. University of Illinois farm economists recently noted that nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer prices are higher going into fall and that farmers are already beginning to make fertilizer purchasing decisions for 2027. **QR code for whole article.**



Cereal Rye and Hairy Vetch: A Reliable Winter Cover Crop Combination for Texas Organic Farms

It is fall in Texas, although the weather certainly doesn't feel very fall-like. Some organic farmers have finished harvest, others are just starting, and some still have a few weeks to go. But we are heading into an El Niño winter weather pattern, with increased chances for wetter conditions across much of Texas. And in some parts of the state, that fall moisture is already arriving. One of my organic cooperators in the Texas Panhandle just reported 4

inches of rain – now 10 inches on a field where we planted our organic small-grain variety trial on September 17.

So, I have a question for you:
Are you planning on a cover crop?

Organic commodity prices are up and supplies are tight. A good winter cover crop can help get you on the right path for spring planting, but we need to get it planted and growing to capture those benefits. When organic growers ask me about winter cover crops for Texas, cereal rye and hairy vetch are usually at the top of my list.

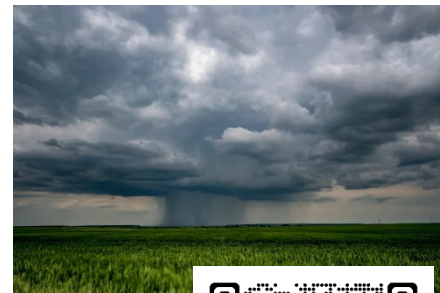
Texas Organic Experience Comes to the National Organic Standards Board

USDA has announced five new appointments to the **National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)**, and one of those appointments is especially important for Texas organic agriculture: **Jed Murray of Texas.**

For many people outside Texas, Jed may be known today as Director of Government Relations for the Texas International Produce Association. But for those of us who have worked in Texas organic agriculture, there is much more to the story.

Jed has actually been part of Texas organic agriculture. He has grown organic vegetables, packed and marketed them, worked with retailers, advocated for growers, and helped us explore how Texas-grown organic products could reach larger markets.

I have known Jed for many years, and he has consistently supported Texas organic growers and



led efforts to expand opportunities for organic agriculture. He brings to the NOSB practical experience with what it takes to make organic agriculture work from the field all the way to the consumer.

2026 Organic Cotton Market Summary

Production Holds Steady, but the Market Is Shifting

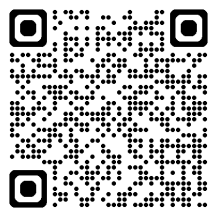
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has released its **2026 Organic Cotton Market Summary** for the 2025 marketing year, and this year's report tells a somewhat different story than the one we saw a year ago.

Last year's report showed a substantial rebound in U.S. organic cotton production, with the 2024 crop reaching **56,717 bales**, an increase of more than 17,000 bales from 2023.

For 2025, production increased again—but only slightly.

Texas continues to lead the nation in organic cotton planting and production, with additional organic acreage in Arizona, California and New Mexico.

QR code for entire story and the market report.



industry groups. **ARE YOU IN THE SOURCEBOOK? IT IS FREE!**

What I like about this effort is that it recognizes how difficult it can be to find the right supplier, buyer, service provider, or technical resource in these specialized markets. The Sourcebook is organized by product, service, and geography, and basic listings are free. Even more useful, if you cannot find what you need, the Sourcebook offers a free sourcing service to help connect you with potential suppliers. For organic farmers and businesses trying to build stronger markets and supply chains, this could become a very useful resource.

QR Code for Sourcebook



Organic Cowpea Production in Texas

Cowpeas—also known as blackeye peas, field peas, southern peas, cream peas, or purple-hull peas—are one of the most versatile warm-season legumes we can grow in Texas. They



tolerate heat and drought better than many other legumes and can be used as a cover crop, forage, grazing crop, fresh-market vegetable, dry edible grain, or seed crop. In organic systems, cowpeas are especially useful because they can fix atmospheric nitrogen through their relationship with *Bradyrhizobium* bacteria while producing biomass, suppressing weeds, and fitting into summer rotation windows.

This new Texas A&M AgriLife Organic publication brings the major production considerations together in one place, including variety selection,



The Organic & Non-GMO Report has launched a new Sourcebook, a searchable directory designed to help people working across regenerative, organic, and Non-GMO agriculture find one another. The directory includes businesses and organizations throughout the supply chain—from farm inputs and growers to processors, distributors, brands, retailers, laboratories, certifiers, consultants, and

seed sources, planting, inoculation and fertility, weed management, insects and diseases, irrigation, harvest, and markets. It also discusses newer Texas A&M cowpea breeding work, including short-season types that may fit especially well between major cash crops. Scan the **QR code** to read the complete **Organic Cowpea Production in Texas** guide. --->



USDA Steps Up Enforcement of Organic Imports at U.S. Ports

USDA is using new tools created under the Strengthening Organic Enforcement rule to more closely track and verify organic products entering the United States. Electronic NOP Import Certificates, Customs data, document reviews, targeted sampling and laboratory testing can now be used together to identify shipments that deserve closer scrutiny before they enter the U.S. organic marketplace.



A recent case at the Port of Long Beach shows how this system can work. USDA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection stopped two shipments of organic-labeled pea protein totaling more than 21 tons. One shipment lacked a valid NOP Import Certificate and certified importer, while another tested positive for a prohibited substance. USDA denied entry to both shipments and later increased oversight within the associated supply chain. For

organic farmers and handlers, this kind of enforcement matters because fraudulent organic products compete directly with businesses that bear the cost of meeting organic standards.

Scan the **QR code** to read the full story and learn more about USDA organic import enforcement.

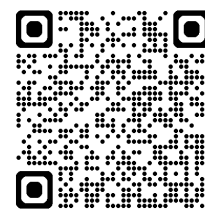


Three More Resources for Organic Farmers

Storing organic grain?

Stored-grain insects can quickly reduce quality and marketability. This publication covers practical prevention and monitoring steps, along with organic-compatible tools such as aeration, pheromone traps, diatomaceous earth and biological controls.

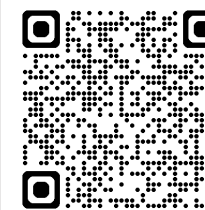
Organic Grain Storage Insect Control



Getting ready to sell grain?

Good marketing starts before the truck is loaded. *Selling Your Organic Grain – Be Prepared!* is a practical reminder to know your buyer, understand contract and delivery requirements, and have the records and information needed before the sale.

Selling Your Organic Grain – Be Prepared!



Can Soil Really Develop in Just Decades?

We often hear that soil takes thousands of years to form—and fully developed soil profiles certainly can. But the **early stages of soil development can happen much faster** when biology is active. Plant roots, fungi, bacteria, organic matter, and mineral weathering can begin building aggregation, nutrient-holding capacity, water infiltration, and other soil functions within decades—and sometimes sooner.

Can Soil Really Develop in Just Decades?

