

Strengthening a Vibrant Organic Produce Industry



Quick Facts

- In 2019, 58% of organic sales came from crops, led by vegetables and fruits (including berries and tree nuts).
- Organic fresh fruit and vegetable sales were over \$9 billion last year, accounting for 12% of all fresh produce sales.
- California produced 36% of the total U.S. value of certified organic agricultural products sold, with more than four times the value of any other state.
- The top selling crops for organics are apples, lettuce, grapes, and strawberries.

Background

With a growing organic sector in the fresh produce industry and increasing participation throughout the supply chain, IFPA aims to be at the forefront of organic policy issues that our members face. With recent policies and regulations affecting our industry, IFPA created the Organics Committee as a resource for our industry.

With representation across the fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain, the Organics Committee brings a valuable perspective and level of expertise. The IFPA Government Relations team, with input from the Organics Committee, regularly

meets and communicates with the Administration, Members of Congress, and other stakeholders with regards to organic policy.

Organic Policy Reform Today

The ability to continue to provide quality, affordable organic fresh produce is a priority for IFPA and our organic members. That is why we want to raise concerns regarding the Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act (H.R. 2918). While we acknowledge that the process by which organic standards are established can and should be improved upon, we believe H.R. 2918 in its current form would make the process worse. IFPA has two main concerns with the bill:

1. The bill would elevate the authority of the National Organics Standards Board

which would violate the role of federal advisory committees under the Federal Advisory Committees Act, in that they should be advisory only, and that all matters under their consideration should be determined, in accordance with law, by the official, agency, or officer involved.

2. USDA would be required to justify – via rulemaking and in an expedited timeframe – the agency’s decisions regarding every recommendation of this voluntary advisory council, which has limited scientific or production expertise and often a significant degree of advocacy bias.