

# 2023 FARM BILL WEEK OF ACTION



Investing in Organic and Sustainable Research



**OEFFA  
POLICY**

## Essential for our future

OEFFA members believe a transformative investment in organic and sustainable research is necessary to address our nation's most urgent food, agriculture, climate, and public health challenges.

Investments in organic and sustainable research **benefit all farmers** by helping them grow responsibly and profitably, and building resilience to climate disruption.

## Deserving of a fair share

Organic and sustainable farming practices should receive a fair share of federal research dollars. Farmers should have access to research that helps them stay informed and innovative.

**Supporting good farming though science enhances the health of our land, air, water, and communities.**

## Talking points:

**1**

Publicly funded agricultural research has led to the advancement of countless innovative techniques and practices that have helped farmers across the country, such as cover cropping. Unfortunately, **these investments have declined about one-third since 2002**, putting the U.S. well behind other countries. (Source: [USDA](#))

**2**

**Ohio is second in the nation** (behind California) **in the number of farms transitioning to organic** and fifth for the total number of organic farms. (Source: [USDA NASS](#))

**3**

**Less than two percent of USDA's annual research budget is spent on organic production topics**, although the organic market has grown to more than six percent of total food sales. (Source: [National Organic Coalition](#); [Organic Trade Association](#))

**4**

For the U.S. to sustain long-term food security for all, **the farm bill must expand investment in research on agricultural climate solutions** that work with nature to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in the soil. There has been a lack of investment in this area, despite organic and regenerative agriculture's potential to aid in climate crisis mitigation and adaptation.

**5**

Organic and sustainable research can support good farming practices that **help ALL farmers** protect our natural environment, support healthy communities, and mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

**6**

If we want to support voluntary solutions for farmers, we need to invest in organic research. Organic farming systems include clear and consistent standards for ecological management with federal oversight and is **100% voluntary**. Let's support these innovative growers!



## Strengthening Organic Agriculture Research (SOAR) Act of 2023

### H.R. 2720

There is growing demand for organics and this bipartisan legislation would help producers continue to innovate so they can provide their organic products to wider markets. Specifically, the bill would increase funding for USDA's flagship organic research program and support research projects that help farmers become more efficient, productive, and profitable.

## Organic Science and Research Investment (OSRI) Act

### S. 2317

Every dollar invested in agriculture research has a \$20 return to the economy. Compared with other segments of agriculture, organic has been historically underfunded. This legislation would help correct that by requiring better coordination on organic research and extension, studying the feasibility of certifying more land as organic, and increasing organic research funding for universities and other organizations. *Cosponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

## Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act

### S. 2023

A lack of access to regionally adapted seed varieties and animal breeds jeopardizes agricultural stability in the U.S. This bill would direct funding through USDA grants to develop ready-to-use, regionally adapted, and publicly available seed varieties and animal breeds.

## Biochar Research Network Act

### S. 732, H.R. 1645

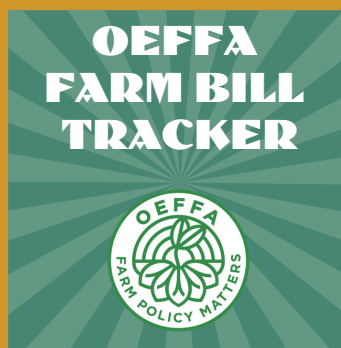
Biochar is a charcoal material produced from plant matter that can be stored in the soil to support underground carbon sequestration. This bill would enable a better understanding of how biochar could be used in our agricultural system by establishing a National Biochar Research Network to study biochar's ability to sequester carbon and increase crop production. *Cosponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

## Opportunities in Organic Act

### S. 1582

Certification costs and limited technical assistance remain barriers for many farmers wanting to transition to and thrive as organic growers. This bill would empower farmers and ranchers by reducing cost barriers, providing training and support, and expanding access to new markets and resources.

Stay up-to-date on relevant marker bills by checking out our [Farm Bill Tracker](#).



Visit our [2023 Farm Bill Platform](#) to learn more about why we need increased investments in organic and sustainable research.

# CONTACTING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

about increasing investments in organic and sustainable research

## Phone Script:

Good [morning/afternoon/evening],

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a [State] resident (if calling the Senate) **OR** I live in the Congressman/Congresswoman's district (if calling a member of the House). I'm calling as a member of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association in regard to the 2023 Farm Bill.

I am concerned about \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., local economies and community health). This issue is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_. [Senate/House Bill ###] addresses the issue by *\*include 2-3 of the above talking points\**. Please ask the [Senator/Congressperson] to support this legislation. The member will be contributing to farmer viability, healthy local food economies, and food system resilience (pick and choose) by ensuring these measures make it into the final farm bill.

## Social Media:

### Captions:

- Organic and sustainable farmers must receive a fair share of federal research dollars for us to work towards our nation's most pressing challenges. @legislator, will you help make this happen?
- I want long-term research on cover crops, organic no-till, natural fertility, nutrition, and disease to be widely accessible to farmers. @legislator, will you draft a new farm bill that provides America's farmers with the resources they need to supply healthy, sustainable food?
- Thank you, @sensherrodbrown, for prioritizing organic and sustainable research in the 2023 Farm Bill!

### Hashtags:

#oeffapolicy #2023FarmBill #ProOrganicAg #organicfarmer #sustainableagriculture #organicresearch #farmbill #sustainablefarmers #regenerativeagriculture #notill #covercrops

Downloadable graphic [here](#).



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