**Organic Farming Growth:**
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, organic farming in Wisconsin has more than doubled in the last five years, from 422 organic farms to 918.
- The number of organic businesses – processors and distributors – has grown 32% in the past year, from 184 to 243.

**Wisconsin Ranks:**
- **First** in organic dairy and livestock.
- **Second** nationally for the number of organic farms, second only to California.
- **Third** in the nation in organic corn, behind Minnesota and Iowa.
- **Fourth** in the nation in organic soybeans, behind Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan.
- **Second** in the nation in organic hay & silage, behind Idaho.

**Wisconsin leads in Organic Dairy Production:**
- About 1/4 of the nearly 90,000 US organic dairy cows live in Wisconsin.
- Total organic milk production for the state is about 55 million gallons, or 480 million pounds, per year.
- Price range for organic milk in the past year: $23 - $30 per hundred weight, compared to conventional milk at $12 - $21.
- Wisconsin is home to over 70 certified organic cheese plants and dairy processors.

**The National Organic Program**
- Farms and businesses are certified organic by the USDA after they meet requirements for raising & processing chemical-free food.
- An annual inspection ensures that organic farmers and processors meet the organic standard.
- Organic livestock are raised without antibiotics and artificial growth hormones. Sick animals that do not respond to organic treatment must be treated conventionally, but are then sold as conventional.