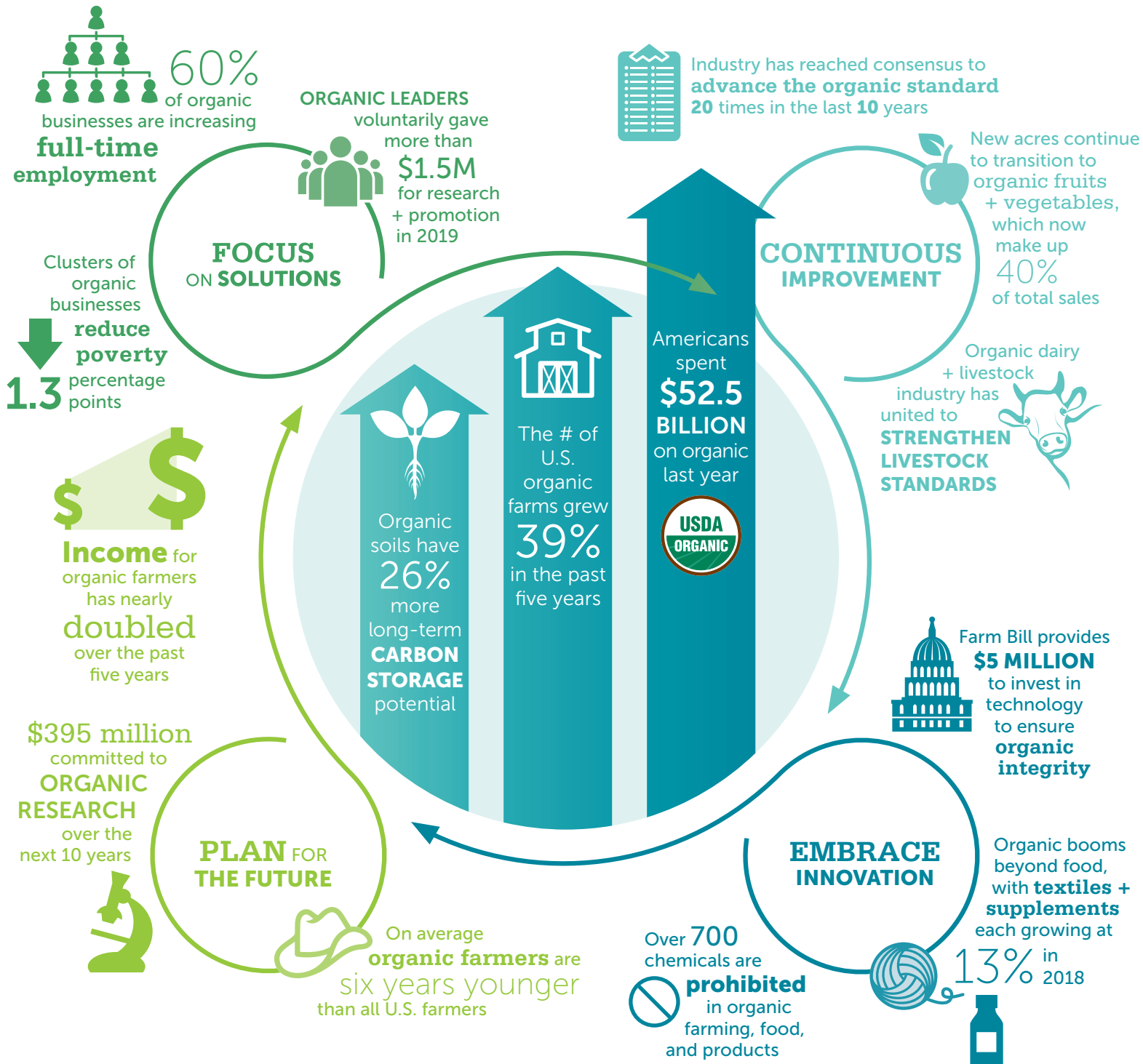


# Organic. **Change for the Better.**

Organic is built on a commitment to shape our future for the better. Consumer expectations drive improvement, and organic farmers and businesses work hard to have a positive impact on people and the planet.



*SINCE 1985*  
**Organic**  
trade association™

Continuous improvement is at the root of organic food and farming. That's why we are committed to advance the standards on behalf the 82% of U.S. households that purchase organic products. Learn more about what we're doing and how you can get involved at [OTA.com](http://OTA.com).

## CITATIONS



A groundbreaking study by Northeastern University scientists and The Organic Center found organic soils have **26% more long-term carbon storage**, curbing carbon's transfer to the atmosphere. *Advances in Agronomy*, Vol. 146, 2017.



**The # of U.S. certified organic farms grew 39%** to 17,741 in 2017, from 12,771 in 2012. *2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2019.*



**Americans spent \$52.5 billion on organic in 2018**, with organic food sales at \$47.9 billion and organic non-food sales reaching \$4.6 billion. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**60% of organic businesses are increasing full-time employment** as demand continues to expand. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**Clusters of organic businesses reduce poverty 1.3 percentage points** — more than some major anti-poverty programs. *U.S. Organic Hotspots and their Benefit to Local Economies, Edward C. Jaenicke, May 2016.*



**Organic leaders voluntarily gave more than \$1.5M for research + promotion in 2019** by investing in GRO Organic programs. *Organic Trade Association, May 2019.*



**Industry has reached consensus to advance the organic standard 20 times in the last 10 years** — yet USDA has not implemented any of the recommendations. *Organic Trade Association, based on NOSB meetings.*



**Each year, new acres transition to organic fruits + vegetables**, with the organic fruit and vegetable category now rising to \$17.4 billion in sales, accounting for 14.6% of total fruit and vegetable sales. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**Organic dairy + livestock industry has united to strengthen livestock standards** by working with the House Organic Caucus to submit a letter to the House Appropriations Committee to seek support for organic in the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bill, including language requiring USDA to issue a final rule on Origin of Livestock standards. *April 4, 2019, letter to House Appropriations Committee Chair and Ranking Member.*



**The 2018 Farm Bill provides \$5 million to the National Organic Program to invest in technology** systems such as blockchain to modernize and improve international organic trade tracking and prevent fraud. *2018 Farm Bill.*



**Organic booms beyond food, with textiles + supplements each growing at 13%** and total organic non-food product sales reaching \$4.8 billion. *2019 Organic Industry Survey, Organic Trade Association, 2019.*



**Over 700 chemicals are prohibited in organic farming, food, and products.** Over 3,000 additives are allowed in conventional food compared to just 67 in organic. See [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov).



According to the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture, **organic farmers are six years younger on average than other farmers** — 57.5 years old average for all farmers vs. 51.3 years old for organic farmers. *USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2019.*



**2018 Farm Bill increases funding for organic research to \$50 million per year** by 2023, establishing permanent baseline funding for the program. *2018 Farm Bill.*



**Income for organic farmers has nearly doubled over the past five years:** \$400,603 average income for organic farms in 2017, up from \$217,836 in 2012. *2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2019.*