



2021 CCOF ANNUAL REPORT
**CULTIVATING OUR
VISION FOR ORGANIC**





Dear CCOF Members & Supporters,

2021 was a year of internal reflection and focused action. We're navigating a new world after a tumultuous couple of years. This time of change gifted CCOF with the opportunity to home in on who we are and how we do our work, while also taking strategic action to grow and support organic.

Our vision is a world where organic is the norm: a world where everyone has the opportunity to grow, sell, and most of all, eat organically.

To reach our vision of a world where organic is the norm, CCOF set a five year milestone known as Vision 2026: CCOF will be the recognized beacon and champion of integrity in the evolution of organic food and agriculture by 2026. We'll do this by:

- Launching bold strategies to increase the amount of farmland under organic production and grow the market for organic food and goods.
- Influencing policies, standards, and regulations to ensure that a diversity of producers can go organic and stay organic.
- Providing a suite of certification programs that support our members while providing high quality organic certification services and education programs.

Another bold strategy well underway is our initiative to reach 30% organic farmland in California by 2030. The CCOF Policy Team is running with the recommendations from our Roadmap to an Organic California: Policy Report. In 2021, we have built coalitions and laid the groundwork for legislation on issues including organic livestock processing,



Joanna Letz of CCOF-Certified Bluma Flora Farm (above and cover).

organic food in schools, and organic transition. Legislators, partners, and members have all come together to help move the needle on our policy initiatives.

After a year of internal work to lay the foundation for the next five years, I am ready to dig in and build an organic world. In 2022, you'll see us offering a new suite of certification programs designed to serve our members and advance our mission. Our applicant support team (sales@ccof.org) can tell you more about our new CCOF certification offerings include

- Regenerative Organic Certification™
- PrimusGFS food safety certification
- OCal comparable-to-organic cannabis certification in California

How will you help cultivate our collective vision for organic? Join your local CCOF chapter, get certified by CCOF, or send us a donation. This all starts with our membership and our supporters, and we couldn't do it without you.

Many thanks,

Kelly Damewood
CEO



CCOF was founded in 1973 when 13 farmers sat around a kitchen table and made a commitment to organic farming and supporting each other. Guided by this mutual commitment, we know that community support and dedication to integrity are key to expanding organic.

CCOF Cross-Organizational Revenue

CCOF Certification Services, LLC — \$16,499,924

Ocal Certification Services, LLC — \$20,148

Provides expert support through accessible, personable certification services to farmers, processors, ranchers, and handlers, including organic certification and a suite of additional certification programs. We invest in efficient technology, knowledgeable staff, and continual improvement to ensure integrity within our community.

CCOF, Inc. — \$5,044,557

Provides cost-effective infrastructure for our certification, advocacy, and Foundation programs, including human resources, marketing, and technology for over 125 CCOF staff to advance CCOF's mission.

CCOF Foundation — \$1,103,129

The CCOF Foundation advances organic by supporting people and communities who care for the land by offering intentional education, financial support, and growth opportunities for organic professionals.

CCOF members seeded \$252,423 in the CCOF Foundation, which bloomed into \$704,210 in direct aid to organic producers.

This provides scholarships to organic-focused students, hardship assistance, financial support for farmers to transition to organic, and organic educational programs for producers.



CCOF Member
Wholesum Family Farms

CCOF 2021 Expenditures

At CCOF, our mission is to advance organic for a healthy world. To get there, we support our membership through investing in organic certification, education, advocacy, and promotion. Together, the effect is powerful, using a holistic approach to support the growth of organic from multiple angles.

Certification — \$14,299,828

Our certification services help our members display their commitment to protecting the environment and nourishing our communities. We also invest in customer service, cutting-edge technology, and additional certifications that set organic businesses up for success.

Advocacy — \$436,166

From the beginning, we've been involved in developing the organic standards and maintaining their integrity. We advocate for rigorous, streamlined organic regulations that support our certified organic members' businesses and protect our planet and communities.

Education — \$920,228

We support organic professionals by developing educational programming that advances the whole organic sector. Our workshops and trainings bring the newest research and cutting-edge organic techniques to organic professionals, filling in the gaps left by more traditional agricultural education. We also educate policymakers, elected officials, and the public about the benefits of organic.

Promotion — \$263,848

Our founding history of promoting organic professionals' success is still a driving force in our mission today. We promote organic's success through supporting organic producers and through promoting information about organic to consumers.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING
OUR MISSION AT WWW.CCOF.ORG.

All of the progress you've helped us achieve in 2021 helped us cultivate the future of organic. Here's what we accomplished together:

2 awards received by CCOF from the National Organic Program — one for outstanding data quality and the other for excellent investigations and compliance work.



CCOF's policy team helped secure **\$7,000,000** in the California state budget to support farmers and ranchers transitioning to organic.

19 vocational and higher education students received **\$5,000** from the Future Organic Farmers program to launch their organic careers.

In **46 states** and **3 countries**, CCOF certified **4,099 organic operations** who are responsible for getting organic products to consumers around the world.

1 bill became law (California AB 888) that expands on farm slaughter, opening alternative avenues for small-scale and organic ranchers to put meat on their neighbors' plates.



12 high schoolers completed organic Supervised Agricultural Experience projects through the National FFA Organization funded by the Future Organic Farmers program.

1,519 organic and other professionals learned new skills through the Organic Training Institute's **17** webinars, workshops, and technical assistance programs.

Organic businesses who experienced hardship received **\$170,000** in aid from the Brimont Hardship Assistance Fund.

1,108 CCOF members used **MyCCOF Action Item Tracker** to submit certification requests electronically.



4 new CCOF Certification Services programs were launched: Regenerative Organic Certification, PrimusGFS food safety certification, grassfed certification, and OCal comparable-to-organic cannabis certification in California.



We wrote and delivered **15 comments** to the National Organic Program and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).



350 people viewed our virtual event **Cultivate & Nourish** to connect and learn together with farmer, poet, and organic leader David Robles.

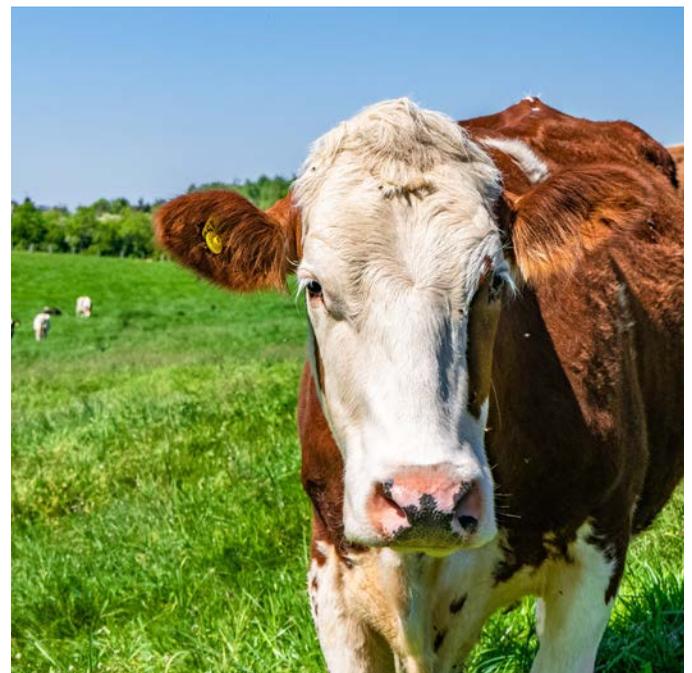


80 CCOF inspectors conducted **5,580** inspections to ensure the integrity of organic.



8 webinars in the Organic Training Institute's **FSMA 101 for Organic Processors** webinar series that prepared food processors to meet food safety standards.

15 members in the California Meat Processing Coalition formed and led by CCOF and the Regenerative Organic Alliance to expand meat processing capacity and advance organic livestock production.



4 episodes of **"Radio Organic"** — CCOF's podcast (in English and Spanish!) all about direct marketing strategies for farms.



INTRODUCING

Charlotte Epps

CCOF FOUNDATION FUTURE
ORGANIC FARMERS GRANTEE

For Charlotte Epps, becoming a part of organic agriculture was unexpectedly kismet. She grew up on the East Coast without a connection to agriculture, but felt an immediate interest and passion for growing food spark in her as she drove by farms and fields during a cross-country move to Oregon. Later, she felt that spark ignite further during a soil science class with James Cassidy at Oregon State University that rerouted her academic career. Initially, Charlotte was interested in plant science, but as she explains, “I started to understand that you can’t really understand plant science without also understanding soil science. And I think that’s one of the underlying principles of organic.”

From then on, Charlotte took off running with organic. She worked on the OSU organic farm and did internships with



James. For her undergraduate research project, Charlotte grew sweet potatoes in the Willamette Valley in a variety trial. Sweet potatoes are typically grown in the more Southern latitudes, but Charlotte theorized that with our changing climate, it may be time to look for novel crops to grow in the region. She used all organic practices, and her project was so successful that it led to an offer for a master’s program where she can continue her research on sweet potatoes.

Charlotte also helped start the Intercultural Learning Community Garden (ILC), which uplifts and empowers students of color and other members of the community who have been historically excluded from agriculture. ILC gives nutritious, organic food to people of color and has plots that students can sign up to manage.



Charlotte with her sweet potato variety trial.

“ I always come back to that idea of who benefits and at what cost. And if we can all benefit, why not? ”

It is a safe space on campus where people of color can connect to the land and ancestral growing practices, while also building community. A Future Organic Farmers grant from the CCOF Foundation helped Charlotte continue her work in the ILC along with her sweet potato research and finishing her studies at OSU.

As a Black woman, Charlotte intends to increase visibility and representation

of people of color in agriculture and to inspire other people of color to explore a path in organic. She also wants to make organic food accessible to all people. “Instead of seeing organic as an opportunity to profit or as an opportunity to upgrade, it’s more this idea that we can be giving back to our communities and to the ecosystems, and also be receiving at the same time. I always come back to that idea of who benefits and at what cost. And if we can all benefit, why not?”

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE ORGANIC FARMERS PROGRAM AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FUTURE ORGANIC PROFESSIONALS AT WWW.CCOF.ORG/FOF.



Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to all CCOF-certified members for choosing CCOF for their organic certification. We invest 2% of our certification revenue back into the organic community and appreciate the additional support provided by our Foundation donors, listed below by level of giving.

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DAILY HARVEST

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FUND



VISIONARY



#NOREGRETS Initiative

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| CCOF Processor/Handler Chapter | Frey Vineyards | MOM's Organic Market | Western Extension Risk Management Education Center (WERME) |
| Chino Valley Ranchers | Front Porch Farm | New Hope Network | Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety |
| Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) | Gaia Fund | Organically Grown Company | Whole Foods Market |
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| | | Spottswoode Winery | |

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CCOF

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Help us advance organic agriculture for a healthy world by donating today. Learn more at www.ccof.org.
Donate to the CCOF Foundation's programs using the enclosed envelope or online by visiting
www.ccof.org/get-involved.

CCOF Member Far West Fungi's
Kyle Garrone, Erin Raser, and their son Lukas.

