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Shortage of Organic Ingredients in the USA Spurring \$1.5 Billion in Imports

Web Note: Sales of certified organic products in the USA reached \$15 billion in 2005, of which \$1.5 Billion or 10% were imported. USA organic exports, on the other hand, totaled \$150 million or 1% of sales.

From: Organic Business News Feb. 29, 2006

<http://hotlineprinting.com/obn/archives/2006/2006-01/OrganicIngredientShortage.html>

Ingredient Shortage Hurts US

Shortages of many organic raw ingredients, including dairy, produce and meat, is stunting growth of the U.S. organic industry, according to a January 2006 report from research firm Organic Monitor in London. "Nearly all market sectors would grow at much higher rates if sufficient supply was available,² the report stated.

The shortages are forcing U.S. manufacturers to look overseas for raw materials. More than \$1.5 billion worth of organic products are imported into the U.S. annually, compared to about \$150 million in organics that are exported.

"Increasing volumes of organic fruit, vegetables, grain, seeds, beans, and herbs are being imported into the U.S.," the report stated. Shortage of organic milk for example, is leading Stonyfield Farm, Londonderry, NH, to look at sourcing organic milk powder from New Zealand.

"With American demand for organic foods expected to strengthen in the coming years, supply shortages are likely to continue," Organic Monitor said. That will ultimately benefit exporters to the U.S. "Unless more American farmers consider converting to organic practices, exporters are likely to capitalize on this lucrative market," the report said.

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Organic Consumers Association - 6771 South Silver Hill Drive, Finland MN 55603

E-mail: [Staff](#) · [Activist](#) or [Media Inquiries](#): 218-226-4164 · Fax: 218-353-7652

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