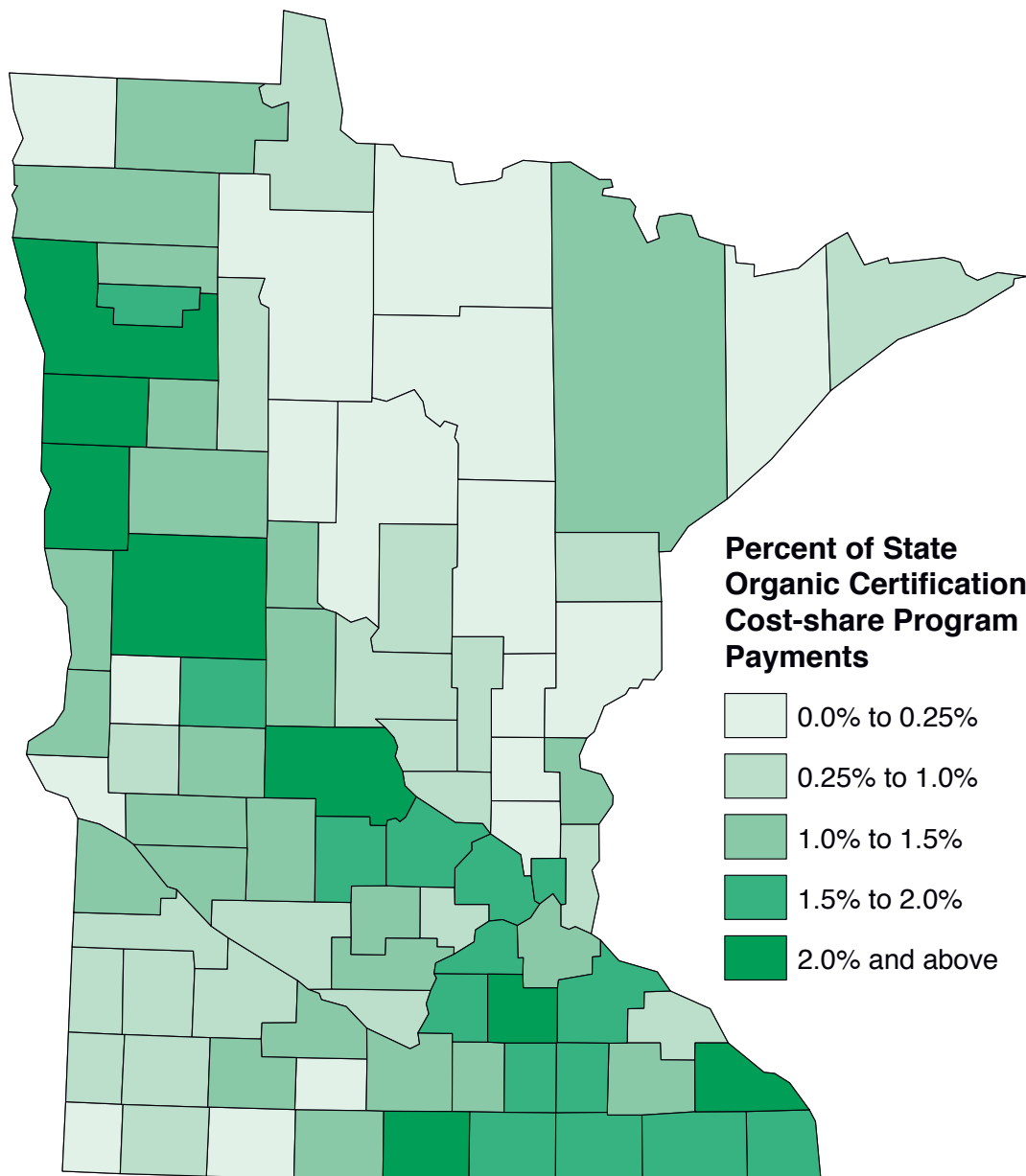


Certified Organic Agriculture, 2005

Organic production provides identity-preserved, value-added processing opportunities, and Minnesota's organic agriculture sector is growing rapidly. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture estimates that the state has more than 450 certified organic farms, with many others transitioning to certified organic or uncertified but using organic practices. Minnesota is the top U.S. producer of organic corn, soybeans, and rye, and second in organic buckwheat.

The market for organic products is also growing rapidly and consistently at about 20 percent per year. Federal guidelines have standardized organic labeling and have fueled consumer interest and confidence in the integrity of organic foods.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture estimates there are more than 100 certified organic food processors in the state. In 2004, about half of all certified organic farms in Minnesota participated in a state cost-share program that helps pay certification fees. This map shows how those payments were distributed by county.



Data source: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 © 2005 Center for Rural Policy and Development