corporate social responsibility
report
2015
Cover Photo: Bottom Right; Doug Collins, Small Farms Educator at Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, was awarded an Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) grant to measure the active carbon in soil on organic farms. The overall goal of his project is to make organic farming more profitable for growers by linking fertilizer applications to plant requirements.

Cover Photo: Left; EV charging station at UNFI's headquarters.

Cover Photo: Right; A person using a digital tablet in a green field.
A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Today, our industry is in a time of rapid change, offering many exciting possibilities. At the same time, the world is undergoing demographic, environmental and cultural shifts that affect us all.

As a company whose mission is to provide healthier food options to people and their families, we believe that being a good neighbor is our responsibility – especially as we innovate and grow to capture new opportunities. We stay true to the values that we’ve operated by for 40 years and we’ll continue to do so for another 40. That’s what sets UNFI apart.

This year, we evolved the UNFI brand. It’s a change that marks the start of our next chapter, best conveyed by our tagline “Discover What’s Next.” It communicates how we approach our work every day – with bold ideas and new possibilities that drive our future. You’ll see many examples of this in our CSR report this year, from the thousands of hours our associates volunteer in their communities to the millions of kilowatt hours of renewable energy produced by our solar arrays.

I’m inspired to come to UNFI every day and partner with associates who are so tremendously dedicated to giving back. They truly drive our success.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Spinner
President & Chief Executive Officer
A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The principles of organic agriculture are embedded in the very fiber of UNFI’s culture and heritage. Our founders recognized the benefits that organic farming brings to human health and the environment. We remain committed to the belief that everyone should have access to clean, nutritious and delicious food, grown without toxic pesticides, herbicides or nitrate-laden fertilizers. The well-being of future generations, the fertility of our soils and the health of our waters are linked with the advancement of organic acreage on our planet.

In Good Health,

Melody Meyer
Executive Director, UNFI Foundation

NATIONAL REACH

The UNFI Foundation has a broad impact, with grantees in 22 U.S. states.

Grant Recipient Map

NATIONAL REACH

$623,200

donated to 43 nonprofit organizations in 2015

$1.4M

donated in grants since 2011
RESEARCH AND SCIENCE TO DEVELOP ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is updating their influential National Organic Research Agenda (NORA), which documents the research priorities needed to help organic farmers and ranchers improve their production systems. OFRF will analyze the results and publish findings in a comprehensive research agenda that will provide a framework for grant-making programs. The UNFI Foundation supported this work with a $20,000 grant.

FOSTER THE NEXT GENERATION OF ORGANIC FARMERS

The UNFI Foundation is a founding partner of the Future Organic Farmer Grant Fund, championed by CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) Foundation. This fund addresses the shortage of farmers by offering grants to students and teachers with an interest in organic. In 2015, the UNFI Foundation gave $25,000 to this effort to make organic farming more accessible.

TEACH ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES

FoodCorps sets the bar for hands-on nutrition education. In 2015, we supported four FoodCorps members serving at sites focused on organic food. These service members help to shift kids’ attitudes about healthy food in limited-resource communities. The UNFI Foundation supported this work with a $25,000 grant.

INCREASE ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION

The Foundation awarded $20,000 to Pesticide Action Network North America (PAN) for their “From Seeds to Drift” project. This program aims to protect organic farmers from pesticide drift, which can cause crop damage and loss of organic certification. To address this problem, PAN is also focused on accelerating the transition to organic farming.

PROTECT THE BIODIVERSITY OF OUR SEED SUPPLY

Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) will soon release its second State of Organic Seed report, the only comprehensive assessment of the challenges and opportunities in building organic seed systems. The report provides a road map for increasing the availability, diversity and integrity of organic seed in the U.S. The UNFI Foundation supported this work with a $20,000 grant.

funding by priority

1. RESEARCH AND SCIENCE TO DEVELOP ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES - $160,000
2. FOSTER THE NEXT GENERATION OF ORGANIC FARMERS - $152,500
3. TEACH ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES - $106,700
4. INCREASE ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION - $138,500
5. PROTECT THE BIODIVERSITY OF OUR SEED SUPPLY - $65,500

Above: OFRF hosts a tour of the Central Coast Organic Strawberry Field at Cassidy Ranch.
Below: On-farm workshop at the Organic Seed Growers Conference. (Photo credit: Organic Seed Alliance)
UNFI FOUNDATION 2015 GRANTEE LIST

African Alliance of RI (AARI)
Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association
California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) Foundation
California Climate and Agriculture Network
California FarmLink
Ecology Action of the Midpeninsula
Emergency Food Network
FamilyFarmed.org
Farmer Veteran Coalition
Florida Organic Growers
Food, What?!
FoodCorps, Inc.
Friends of Zenger Farm
Green America
Groundwork Providence
Homeless Garden Project
Life Lab Science Program
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Oregon Tilth
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Growers School
Organic Seed Alliance
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Pesticide Action Network North America
Pie Ranch
Rodale Institute
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA
Seed Savers Exchange
Soil Born Farms
Spartanburg Area Conservancy
T.E.R.I., Inc.
The Ceres Community Project
The Organic Center
The Seed Farm
The Trustees of Reservations
UCSC Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College
Wild Farm Alliance

Guiding a healthier road ahead
2015 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

13,600 volunteer hours
$294,618 donated to nonprofits in our communities
12,305,200 pounds of food donated
$97,478 donated by associates through payroll deductions
$126,596 donated by associates to UNFI Associate Relief Fund

VOLUNTEERISM

Giving back to the communities where we work is a high priority. In 2015, UNFI associates donated 13,600 hours of their time working with our nonprofit partners to address hunger, nutrition, education and to promote environmental conservation and the use of sustainable and organic farming practices.

Two UNFI associates participated in Clif Bar’s In Good Company collaborative week-long service projects. Patrick Roy helped to create a custom market stand and chicken coop in the food desert area of South Bronx, NY. Jamie Lollback went to Hotevilla, AZ to help build a timber frame straw bale home for a family on the Hopi Reservation.

“...This was the most impactful and meaningful volunteer project I’ve ever been a part of. These people are living in an environment where it’s nearly impossible to provide their families with healthy food. It’s truly amazing how passionate they are about finding solutions to improve the place they call home.”

– Patrick Roy, Providence, RI
HELPING HANDS

The UNFI Helping Hands Committees drive all of our philanthropic work. We have 30 committees in North America that make a positive impact in their local communities.

FOOD DAY

On October 24th, we celebrated Food Day across the country. Our associates called attention to the issues surrounding food access and nutrition by coordinating farmers markets, lunch and learns and healthy recipe competitions.

EARTH DAY

Every April, we show our support for environmental protection and highlight UNFI’s commitment by doing our part. This year, our associates spent over 2,000 hours cleaning up their local green spaces, planting trees and educating their communities about the importance of preserving the environment.

LOCAL GIVING

FOOD DONATIONS

We believe that everyone deserves access to healthy food. In 2015, we donated 12,305,200 pounds of food and other products through Feeding America’s network of food banks.

ASSOCIATE RELIEF FUND

Since 2011, the Associate Relief Fund has granted over $300,000 to UNFI associates. The program supports associates facing hardship as a result of natural disaster, family medical issues or death in the family.

PAYROLL GIVING

Our associates gave $97,478 to these nonprofit partners in 2015 through payroll deductions:

- American Cancer Society®
- Farmer Veteran Coalition
- Feeding America®
- UNFI Associate Relief Fund
- UNFI Foundation
- Vitamin Angels®
- United Way®

Food Day

Top Left Photo: UNFI Ridgefield partnered with Clark County Food Bank for a healthy cooking demonstration.

Bottom Left Photo: Members of the NorCal Supermarket team took a day off from store visits to bag more than 2,000 pounds of potatoes at the Tri-City Food Bank.

Bottom Right Photo: UNFI Ridgefield volunteered at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The crew repaired supports on more than 4,500 plants over about 8 acres.

Denver-based Indy & Business Development team members volunteered at Project Angel Heart and put together 200 breakfast bags for individuals and families coping with life-threatening illnesses. Each one-of-a-kind bag created by community volunteers featured hand drawn, colorful artwork.

ASSOCIATE RELIEF FUND

Associates at our Providence, RI headquarters raised nearly $7,000 for the Associate Relief Fund during a Penny Wars competition spearheaded by our Blue Marble Brands team.

12,305,200 pounds of food donated
LOCAL GIVING RECIPIENTS

A Little Taste of Everything
ACS Relay for Life
ACS Relay for Life of Franklin County
Iowa Food Hub
Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
American Red Cross Southwestern NJ
Angels Answer, Inc.
Atlanta Children Shelter
Ayers Foundation
Beacon Food Forest/P-Patch Trust
Bethesda Mission - Outreach Ministry
Brattleboro Drop In Center
Brattleboro Walk in Clinic
Burl Oak Land Trust
Capital City Community Centers
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Charlotte Rescue Mission
Cheshire YMCA
Children’s Tumor Foundation
Clark County Food Bank
Cofax Marathon (Kaiser Permanente)
Community Haven
Connecticut Food Bank
Crossroads Rhode Island
Connecticut Audubon Society Inc
CVS Downtown 3K
Day Kimball Hospital
Denver Rescue Mission
Denver Urban Gardens
Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Dover Area Food Bank
Downtown Womens Center
Eastern CT Conservation District
Eco RI, Inc.
Eliza & Hugh Culverhouse Family Foundation
Evergreen Habitat for Humanity
Extreme Community Makeover
Farm Fresh Rhode Island
Feeding America Tampa Bay
Florida Organic Growers
Food Bank of South Jersey
Food Connects, Inc.
Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
Friends of Assisi
Gabrielle Shimmo Heart & Hope Fund
Gemmie E. Moran United Way
Greater Newark Conservancy
Groundwork Providence
Habitat for Humanity
Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County
Habitat For Humanity, Greater Springfield, VT.
Hands of Hope for the Community
Hands4Hope
Handy Hearts, Inc.
Harry Chapin Food Bank
Harvest of Hope
Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Association
Horizon House
Horsemorning Farm Center for Agricultural Education
Hunter's Sharing the Harvest
Ihsp- Daily Bread
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity
Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development
Jefferson County Open School PTSA
Jeremiah’s Hospice, Inc.
Just Roots, Inc.
Kids Against Hunger
Leg Up Farm Able-Services
Life’s Kitchen
Linda’s Closet
Long Island Harvest
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Make A Wish of Greater PA & WV
March of Dimes
Meals on Wheels
Midtown Greenway Coalition
Monadnock United Way
Nassau Land Trust
Nevada County Habitat for Humanity
North Carolina Conservation Network
Operation Community Care
Operation Sack Lunch
Outreach, Inc.
Pack Away Hunger
Park Pride Atlanta
Pathways for Keene
PCC Farmland Trust
Philabundance
Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House
Placer Food Bank
Prescott Area Food Pantry
PRET Foundation
Project Angel Heart
Quinebaug Valley Community College
Relay for Life of Keene, NH
Revision International
Rhode Island Zoological Society
Rhode Island Community Food Bank
Ridgeline National Wildlife Refuge
Rocklin Loomis Basin Rotary Foundation Inc.
Rogue Farm Corps
Saucon Valley Community Food Bank
Save Our Shores
Seed Savers Exchange
Servicios de La Raza
Share
Sierra Roots
Slow Food Western Slope
Slow Foods Denver
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
South Jersey Land & Water Trust
Southern Cumberland Regional Association of Parents & Schools
Special Olympics of Southeastern Wisconsin
Sprout City Farms
Stone Mountain Farm
Struggling of the Neighbors, Inc.
Suncoast Waterkeeper, Inc.
Susan G. Komen
Take A Kid Outdoors, Inc.
Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group

Doing what’s right for the environment and future generations
GREEN BUILDING

Our LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified buildings are not only more energy and water efficient, they’re also located closer to our customers, which helps us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

EXISTING LEED® CERTIFIED BUILDINGS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>LEED® Certification</th>
<th>Sq. Footage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
<td>September 2009</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgefield, WA</td>
<td>December 2007</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>238,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York, PA</td>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>482,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster, TX</td>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>590,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora, CO</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racine, WI</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson Valley, NY</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW BUILDINGS

GILROY, CA

Designed for LEED® Gold Certification
452,601 square feet

- CO2 refrigeration with variable frequency drives on the motors
- Use of energy efficient LED lighting
- Automated lighting and refrigeration systems to optimize energy use, saving over 26% in energy costs
- Water use reduction of 50% through the use of efficient fixtures

SOLAR ENERGY

We support a reliable and resilient energy system by investing in renewable energy. In 2015, our solar panel arrays generated over 4 million kWh of renewable energy and avoided 2,785 metric tons of CO2.

RECYCLING

We limit waste because we know it has a significant impact on the environment. This year, UNFI distribution centers diverted 67% of our operational waste from the landfill, a 25% improvement over last year.

Our Racine distribution center, one of our newest LEED® Certified buildings, had a diversion rate of 88% in 2015, recycling 1,696 tons of plastic, cardboard, paper, shrink wrap and wood pallets.

ELECTRICITY

Even as we continue to grow, electricity usage intensity at UNFI distribution centers is declining. Our commitment to Green Building means that our newest distribution centers are more energy efficient than other buildings of the same size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity Usage (kWh)</td>
<td>60,462,270</td>
<td>65,530,985</td>
<td>66,819,175</td>
<td>65,307,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity Usage Intensity (kWh/$1,000 sales)</td>
<td>13.35</td>
<td>12.52</td>
<td>11.02</td>
<td>9.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FLEET EFFICIENCY**

Our fleet is our largest source of emissions. Every year we take measures to improve efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of our fleet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fuel Efficiency (MPG)</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td>6.40</td>
<td>6.53</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td>6.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles Driven (Miles)</td>
<td>36,679,981</td>
<td>38,675,661</td>
<td>37,987,682</td>
<td>39,974,237</td>
<td>38,284,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel Fuel Usage (Gallons)</td>
<td>6,835,638</td>
<td>7,005,723</td>
<td>7,110,816</td>
<td>7,614,862</td>
<td>7,561,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-Over-Year Fuel Efficiency Improvement</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-Over-Year Avoided Diesel Fuel Usage (Gallons)</td>
<td>274,420</td>
<td>129,346</td>
<td>269,397</td>
<td>175,659</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year-Over-Year Avoided GHG Emissions (m.t. CO2e)</td>
<td>7,709</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>7,377</td>
<td>1,783</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFI Sales ($100)</td>
<td>$45,300,150</td>
<td>$52,360,210</td>
<td>$60,643,555</td>
<td>$47,946,470</td>
<td>$81,869,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INBOUND LOGISTICS**

In 2015, we avoided 30,608 metric tons of CO2e by using rail instead of over-the-road trucks for inbound loads. Rail shipments increased by nearly 3,000 from 2014 to 2015, resulting in over 7,000 additional metric tons of CO2e avoided. These efforts decreased our CO2e per pound by roughly 7%.

**GREENING OUR COMMUTE**

In 2008, we began offering our associates an incentive to purchase hybrid vehicles. To date, we have given over $200,000 to help make the shift towards a greener commute. We’ve kept pace with advances in sustainable commuting and now, this program includes hybrid, all-electric and hybrid plug-in vehicles.

“UNFI has taken a strong stance on reduction of our carbon footprint while keeping the sustainable goals in the forefront. We are committed to working with the latest technology to ensure YOY increases in MPG for our tractors and a reduction in gallons per hour consumed by our refrigerated trailers. Weekly and monthly, UNFI measures each DC, truck and driver to validate milestones on fuel consumption and idle time reduction.”

– Jeff Wismans, National Director of Transportation

Investing in food integrity
Advocating for food democracy
UNFI’s support for the Non-GMO Project over the past decade has been critical to insuring a supply chain free of GMO ingredients. The Project has now verified 35,000 products and many of UNFI’s products have gone through the rigorous process. Because of their success, the food supply is much more transparent and consumers can make a real choice to avoid GMOs.”

-Michael Funk, Chairman, UNFI Board of Directors

ORGANIC
UNFI carries over 15,000 separate SKUs of certified organic grocery items. In 2015, we increased the total number of organic SKUs sold by 16%. We shipped 21% more units of organic products compared to 13% overall growth. Sales dollars have grown by 27% for organic compared to 20% overall. Our produce divisions, Albert’s Organics and Pacific Organic, had sales of 99% certified organic fresh produce. We also actively engage in the organic policy and regulatory process to ensure the integrity of the organic seal.

NON-GMO
Over 30% of all our products are Non-GMO Project Verified, representing UNFI’s commitment to food transparency and the consumer’s right to know.

FAIR TRADE
Certified Fair Trade sales were over $200M in 2015. Fair Trade assures that farmers and workers in developing countries are justly compensated, building sustainable businesses that positively influence their communities.

PRODUCT INTEGRITY

CONFERENCES
We continue to sponsor conferences that have a wide impact on organic and sustainable agriculture. In 2015, we supported the following forums and conferences:

- National Young Farmers Coalition’s Land Access Innovations
- Organic Seed Alliance’s 8th Organic Seed Growers Conference
- Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service’s 2015 Organic Farming Conference
- Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association’s 36th Annual Conference
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association’s Sustainable Agriculture Conference
- Ecological Farming Association’s Annual Conference
- Georgia Organics’ Recipe for Change
- Tilth Producers of Washington’s 40th Anniversary Conference
- The Edible Schoolyard Project’s Edible Schoolyard Academy
- The Organic Center’s Organic Confluences Conference

CONFERENCE IMPACT

- 8,698 total attendees
- 5,185 farmers
- 2,010 new & transitioning organic farmers

conference curriculum

- 47,512 lbs. of organic food served
- 206 sessions on increasing organic production
- 191 sessions teaching organic farming practices
- 23 sessions on seed biodiversity

attendee profile

Top photo: CFSA conference goers visit Timberwood Organics, a family-owned farm that grows certified organic produce and herbs. (Photo credit: Julie Williams Dixon)
INDUSTRY PARTNERS

We partner with industry leaders to advance organic agriculture and promote transparent labeling of food. Below are a few of the many organizations that we support through monetary donations and professional collaboration.

THE ORGANIC CENTER

The Organic Center uses research and science to enhance the conversion of agriculture to organic and sustainable methods. To achieve this mission, The Organic Center convenes and conducts credible science on organic practices in the areas of health, environment, and applied on-farm problem solving.

The Organic Center project timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Blight</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Fixation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus Greening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic in Rice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticide Exposure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticide Residues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Hormone Presence in Milk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Integrated Pest Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Position Impacts of Organic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotic Resistance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine Disruption (Tentative)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmworker Health (Tentative)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION

The Organic Trade Association’s (OTA) mission is to promote and protect organic. In a groundbreaking move for the nation’s organic sector, the OTA has formally petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a research and promotion check-off program for organic.

GRO Organic program summary
groorganic.net

1. Stakeholder outreach and revisions based on feedback. Framework and program details are finalized for an Organic Check-Off.

2. Petition USDA with application. USDA decides whether to issue a proposal and hold a referendum for public comment and vote.

3. USDA publishes proposed rule regarding the establishment of an Organic Check-Off, holds public comment period, considers and integrates comments.

4. USDA publishes final rule regarding the establishment of an Organic Check-Off; holds referendum; tabulates and announces results; and issues final Order.

5. An industry-governed board, appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture with input from the organic sector, would direct an Organic Check-Off program.

JUST LABEL IT

Just Label It is a national coalition of over 700 organizations and 450,000 members dedicated to bringing about federal GMO labeling. In 2011, Just Label It delivered a petition to the FDA with over 1.5 million signatures. At the time, it was the largest petition on food issues delivered to the FDA. The group continues to lobby Congress, the President and food companies while educating consumers on the importance of labeling foods containing genetically engineered ingredients.

“Despite common industry concerns, there’s no evidence that requiring food manufacturers to label products that contain genetically modified (GMO) ingredients will increase food prices at the supermarket.”

-justlabelit.org
A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES & SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

This is our sixth CSR report and while we still have room to grow, our strategy is working. I’m excited to see the measurable results that have created real value in driving social and environmental good for our planet.

The key to our efforts is innovation. We have always been a leader in this area, investing in technology and partnerships that continually reshape our approach – giving us new ways to limit our footprint and multiply our positive impact in the communities that we do business in and the environment.

For example, we’re exploring new streams of recycling and ways to divert materials from landfills. From wood pallets to food scraps, our facilities are working creatively to limit waste.

We also support innovative organizations through the UNFI Foundation, who work to convert agricultural land to organic because it supports the health of the planet, animals, consumers and farmworkers.

These inspiring outcomes motivate the work we do in philanthropy and sustainability, and our drive to always Discover What’s Next. I’m proud that UNFI is making a difference.

Kind regards,

Thomas Dziki
Chief Human Resources & Sustainability Officer

get the latest industry news

UNFI is a thought leader in the organic and natural community. For those interested in topics such as: food justice and food policy, organic news and regulations, or labeling and GMOs, the Organic Matters blog is an unrivaled resource. Melody Meyer, VP Corporate Social Responsibility, covers all the latest organic news, information and current events.

organicmattersblog.com Sign up now and become an organic insider.
Discover What’s Next

At UNFI, we’re always looking for new ways to make a difference. Next year, we’ll focus on:

**Reporting**
Continuous improvement in the frequency and quality of reporting

**Engagement**
Greater focus on local engagement at our distribution centers

**Education**
More training for our associates on industry and sustainability