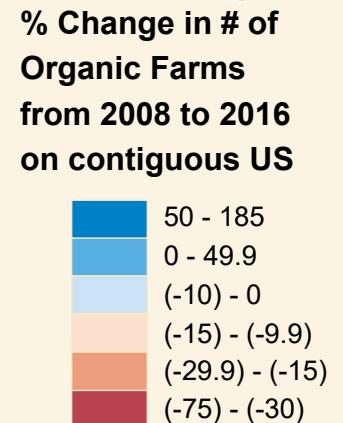
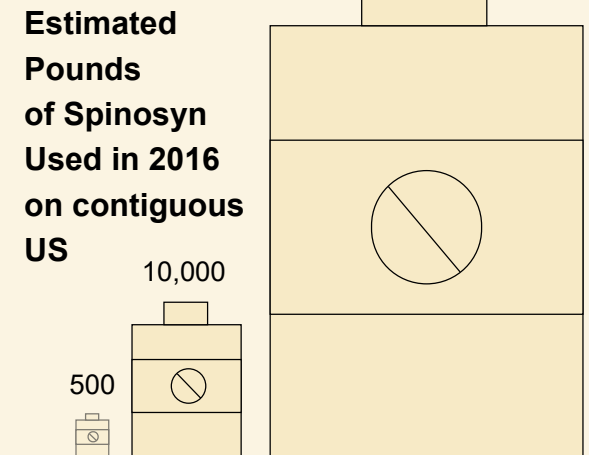
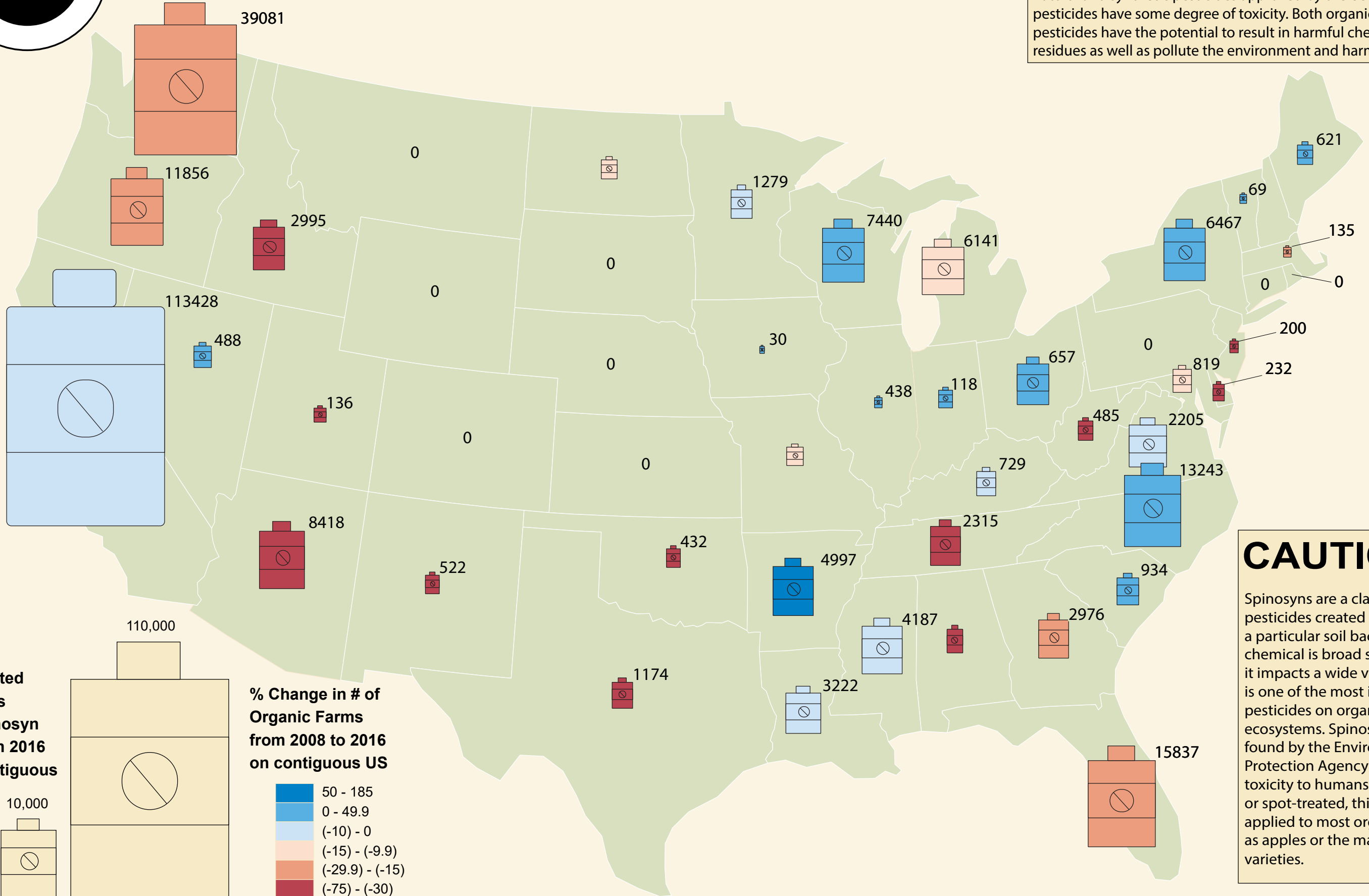




Organic Is Not Chemical-Free

The USDA definition of organic agriculture describes it as a process promoting the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem health. Many consumers think positively of organic certified food, but some associate the organic eco-label with “no chemicals or pesticides”. In fact, organic growers can choose from a long list of natural and synthetic pesticides approved by the USDA. All pesticides have some degree of toxicity. Both organic and conventional pesticides have the potential to result in harmful chemical food residues as well as pollute the environment and harm non-target species.



CAUTION:

Spinosyns are a class of biological pesticides created from fermenting a particular soil bacteria. This chemical is broad spectrum, meaning it impacts a wide variety of pests and is one of the most intensively used pesticides on organic agro-ecosystems. Spinosyns have been found by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to have a low toxicity to humans. Usually sprayed or spot-treated, this pesticide is applied to most organic crops such as apples or the many cole crop varieties.

Cartographer: Sam Minor

Scale: 1:14,000,000

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Central Meridian: 96°W

Sources:

Color - <http://colorbrewer2.org/#type=sequential&scheme=BuGn&n=3>

Organic Definition and Info - <https://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/organic-productionorganic-food-information-access-tools>

Organic Farm Data - https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2007/Online_Highlights/Organics/organics_1_01.pdf

Spinosyn Data - <https://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/pnsp/usage/maps/county-level/>

Shapefile - <http://www.naturalearthdata.com/downloads/110m-cultural-vectors/>