The activities of the National Organic Standards Board, coupled with the movement towards "sustainable systems" and continued consumer support for organic foods, have made farming organically an increasingly viable alternative for many U.S. farmers. This list of resources is provided to accommodate increasing requests for information on organic farming. Most publications listed are available through local public or university libraries, some are available electronically. Listed are 12 national directories and guides, 9 overviews, 10 government policies and certification handbooks, 35 soil and crop management sources, 11 pest management publications, 11 livestock management references, 10 economics and marketing sources, 17 journals and newsletters, 8 electronic resources, and 10 other information sources. (LZ)
Organic Production: Recent Publications and Current Information Sources

Special Reference Briefs: SRB 95-01

Mary V. Gold
Alternative Farming Systems Information Center
Organic production : recent publications and current information sources.
(Special reference briefs ; 95-01)
aS21.D27S64 no.95-01

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In August 1994, the United States Department of Agriculture published an historic document: a set of "Final Recommendations" released by the USDA's National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The Board, established by the 1990 Farm Bill, was mandated to present recommended standards to the Secretary of Agriculture regarding implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. With 14 appointees selected from the organic farming and foods industry, environmental and consumer groups, and the scientific research community, the National Organic Standards Board has labored together for almost three years.

The newly released recommendations "constitute an historic collaboration between the public, private sector and government to openly hammer out national standards. We have held well-attended public-input sessions at each of our deliberative board and committee meetings. During the last two and a half years, we have met in Washington DC, Virginia, Minnesota, Colorado, Maryland, California, Maine, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Oregon and New Mexico. We have encouraged and received comments at every stage, from committee drafts to draft board recommendations. This process has not been perfect; it can use much improvement. But we believe that this process does set a new standard for USDA advisory board performance and public participation.

"These recommendations signal a new era. Never before has the government been given this responsibility: to describe and preserve integrity of organic food and fiber products from seed to consumer." (unsigned letter accompanying Final Recommendations as cited above, August 1, 1994)

Crop and livestock production; processing and labeling; accreditation; and importation standards are all addressed by the recommendations. Other facets of production and distribution are still being assessed. The current recommendations will be the foundation for a uniform program regulating organic food and fiber production and processing. Through the Organic Foods Productions Act, the standards will be administered and enforced by the USDA. Final implementation of the Act will probably take place late in 1995.

For publications, questions or comments relating to NOSB activities, contact the National Organic Program Staff, USDA/AMS/TMD, Room 2510-South, P.O. Box 96456, Washington DC 20090-6456, phone 202-720-3252, fax 202-205-7808.
ORGANIC PRODUCTION
Recent Publications and Current Information Sources

Introduction

The activities of the National Organic Standards Board, coupled with movement towards "sustainable systems" and continued consumer support for organic foods, have made farming organically an increasingly viable alternative for many U.S. farmers. In addition, there has been renewed awareness of organic agriculture on the part of public interest groups, marketing organizations and agricultural researchers. This interest is reflected by the many requests for information received each month at the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC). The Center is supported by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) of USDA.

The attached list of resources is provided as a place for information seekers to start. The inclusion or omission of a publication is not meant as endorsement or disapproval. Most publications are available through local public or university libraries. Starred items (*) are available electronically through sources listed under "Electronic Resources". For information about Interlibrary Loan, consult your local library system or contact the Document Delivery Branch, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville MD 20705-2351, phone 301-504-5755, fax 301-504-5675, email <lending@nal.usda.gov>

Mary V. Gold, Assistant Coordinator
Alternative Farming Systems Information Center

National Directories and Guides:


Overviews:


Government Policies and Certification:

California Certified Organic Farmers...Certification Handbook, (published annually) Santa Cruz, CA: California Certified Organic Farmers, 1989- . (NAL S605.5 C3) (Contact: CCOF, 1115 Mission St., Santa Cruz CA 95060, 409-423-2263)


OFPANA Guidelines for the Organic Foods Industry and OFPANA Membership Directory. Greenfield MA: Organic Foods Production Assn. of North America, 1988. (Contact: OFPANA has recently (Fall '94) changed its name to the "Organic Trade Association", but is still at P.O. Box 1078, Greenfield MA 01302.)

Soil and Crop Management:


Kirschenmann, Frederick, *Switching to a Sustainable System: Strategies for Converting from Conventional/Chemical to Sustainable/ Organic Farming Systems*. Windsor ND: Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, 1988. (NAL S494.5 S86K5) (Contact: NPSAS, Box 36, Maida ND 58255, 701-256-2424)


**Pest Management:**


**Livestock Management:**


Economics and Marketing:


Klonsky, Karen et al., Production Practices and Sample Costs for Organic .... (Series detailing production inputs and costs of specific crops including processing tomatoes, diversified mixed vegetables and wine grapes) Davis CA: Univ. of California Cooperative Extension, 1993-. (NAL various numbers) (Contact: Department of Agricultural Economics, Cooperative Extension, University of California, Davis CA 95616, 916-752-9376)


Other resources:


Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC), National Agricultural Library, USDA, *List of Information Products. Beltsville MD: National Agricultural Library, 1994. (list of "Quick Bibliographies" on various alternative ag topics, e.g. "Legumes in Crop Rotations", "Cultural and Mechanical Weed Control", "Rotational Grazing and Intensive Pasture Management", etc., AFSIC staff will perform individual database searches and information retrieval on request.) (Contact: AFSIC, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Rm. 304, Beltsville MD 20705-2351, 301-504-6559, email <afsic@nalusda.gov>)

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) Resource Center, Information Packages. Fayetteville AR: ATTRA, 1992- (NAL various numbers) (multipaged free information packets on various organic techniques and crops, e.g., "Organic Vegetable Production", "Organic/ Low-Spray Apple Production", "Organic Strawberry Production", "Sustainable Hydroponics", "Sustainable Dairy Production", etc. ATTRA staff also respond to specific informational requests) (Contact: ATTRA, P.O. Box 3657, Fayetteville AR 72702, 1-800-346-9140)
Gardner, Melanie, *A Guide to Funding Resources*. ("...information from both government and private sources on funding opportunities available to local governments, small businesses, organizations, groups and individuals.") Rural Information Center Publication Series; no.38., Beltsville MD: USDA, National Agricultural Library, 1994 (NAL aHN49 C6R873 no. 38) (Contact: Rural Information Center, National Agricultural Library, USDA, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Room 304, Beltsville MD 20705-2351, 1-800-633-7701 or 301-504-5547)


Office for Small-Scale Agriculture, USDA, *Small-Scale Agriculture Alternatives Series*. Washington DC: OSSA/USDA, 1992- (NAL various numbers) (pamphlet series on various alternative crops e.g. "Wildflowers", "Mushrooms", "Exotic Livestock", etc.) (Contact: Office for Small-Scale Agriculture, Ag Box 2244, Washington DC 20250-2244, 202-401-1805)

Stevens, Raymond, Videocassettes in the NAL Collection Pertaining to Alternative Farming Systems. (Special Reference Briefs 92-14) Beltsville MD: USDA, National Agricultural Library, 1992. (NAL aS21 D27S64 no. 92-14) (Contact: AFSIC above)


Weintraub, Irwin, "Alternative Agriculture: Selected Information Sources - Part II: Bibliographies, Reports, and Directories" in Journal of Agricultural and Food Information, Vol. 1 (4), pp. 33-96.(NAL S494.5 I47J68) (Contact: same as above)

Journals and Newsletters:

For a detailed list of journals and newsletters with subscription information for each title, please consult Jane Potter Gates’ Periodicals Pertaining to Alternative Farming Systems. Beltsville MD: USDA, National Agricultural Library, 1993. (NAL aZ5074 A815) (Contact: AFSIC above) and/or Irwin Weintraub’s Information Sources List, above.
Some titles of particular interest to organic producers:

**Acres U.S.A., A Voice for Eco-Agriculture.** (monthly; NAL S601 A1A25) Acres, USA, P.O. Box 9547, Kansas City MO 64133.

**American Journal of Alternative Agriculture.** (quarterly; NAL S605.5 A43)"Published in collaboration with the Center for Agriculture, Food and Environment, School of Nutrition, Tufts University, Medford MA) Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture, 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt MD 20770.

**Bio-Dynamics.** (quarterly; NAL 56.8 B52) Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Assn., P.O. Box 550, Kimberton PA 19442-0550.

**Common Sense Pest Control Quarterly.** (quarterly; NAL SB950 A1C62) Bio-Integral Resource Center, P.O. Box 7414, Berkeley CA 94707.


**The Furrow.** (8/year; NAL S441 F97) John Deere, P.O. Box 663, Moline IL 61265-0663.

**Journal of Pesticide Reform: A Journal of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides.** (quarterly; NAL SB950.2 A1J58) NCAP, Box 1393, Eugene OR 97440.

**The Natural Farmer.** (quarterly; NAL S605.5 N3) Northeast Organic Farming Assn. (NOFA), 411 Sheldon Rd., Barre MA 01005.

**The New Farm.** (7/year; NAL S1 N32) New Farm has ceased publication as of 2/95. Back issues still provide a great deal of useful information.

**Organic Food Matters.** (?; NAL S494.5 S86O7) Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, P.O. Box 1300, Colfax CA 95713.

**Organic Gardening.** (9/year; NAL S605.5 O74) Rodale Press, Inc., 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus PA 18098.

**Rural Heritage.** ("20 Years in Support of Farming and Logging with Horses, Mules and Oxen") (bimonthly; NAL SF311 E9) Rural Heritage, 281 Dean Ridge Lane, Gainsboro TN 38562.

Some titles of particular interest to organic food marketers/distributers:

Growing For Market, (monthly) Fairplain Publications, P.O. Box 3747, Lawrence KS 66046.

Natural Foods Merchandiser and Organic Times (annual supplement to Natural Foods Merchandiser). New Hope Communications, Inc., 1301 Spruce St., Boulder CO 80302.


Many organic grower and certification groups, university research projects, and regional environmental and SARE organizations provide excellent newsletters and other publications. Check directories for more information.

* Electronic resources:

Computer Software for farm management:

PLANETOR Microcomputer Software Module. (for "ecologically sound and economically viable" crop production; demonstration disk available) (Contact: Center for Farm Financial Management, 249 Classroom Office Bldg., Univ. of MN, St. Paul MN 55108, 612-625-1964 or 1-800-234-111)

All of the starred publications in this list are available electronically. Increasingly, good farming and marketing information is available electronically: via computer diskettes and CD-ROMS, Electronic Bulletin Boards (BBS), Commercial on-line database/search services and on Internet email, discussion groups, mail lists, gophers and World Wide Web systems. Learning the new technology and tools for accessing the "information highway" is the subject of many excellent books. Your local library, bookstore or computer store should have current materials.

If you have email and/or Internet access, here is a sampling of useful places to look:

USDA, National Agricultural Library Gopher System, address: <gopher.nalusda.gov> Contains information on current free library publications, including Quick Bibliographies,
Agri-Topics, Reference Briefs, etc. If the publication you need is not available electronically, information as to how to obtain it by mail is given. All eleven Information Centers, including AFSIC, Aquaculture Information Center, Food and Nutrition Information Center and Rural Information Center, and the Reference Desk, are accessible on the gopher and you can address information requests directly to them.

The NAL gopher provides "pointers" (points of access) to many other agricultural related sources including the USDA Extension Service gopher, many agricultural related libraries in the U.S. and around the world. You will also find Wilfred Drew’s "Not Just Cows: a Guide to Internet/ Bitnet Resources in Agriculture and Related Sciences" on the NAL gopher.

Agricultural Library Forum (ALF) is the National Agricultural Library’s Electronic Bulletin Board System. Dial-in access numbers: 301-504-6510; 301-504-5111; 301-504-5496 or 301-504-5497. ALF can also be accessed through FedWorld, the electronic gateway to Federal agency bulletin boards, databases, programs and press releases, 703-321-8020. For more information, contact ALF’s System Operator (SYSOP) at 301-504-5113, or kschneid@nalusda.gov.

USDA Extension Service Gopher, address: <gopher.esusda.gov>
Items of interest on this gopher are the searchable "Directory of Professional Workers in State Agriculture Experiment Stations and Other Cooperating State Institutions", Information bulletins regarding flood assistance programs and Extension's Water Quality database. You may also access the "Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) database which documents most currently funded USDA research projects. Investigator contacts, budget amounts, related publications are included and can all be searched by keyword.

North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service Gopher (NCSU/CES), address: <gopher.ces.ncsu.edu>
This gopher is the main repository of materials originating from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. From the main NCSU/CES menu, choose National CES Programs / Sustainable Agriculture. In addition to SARE materials (the Directory of Expertise, currently funded SARE projects, etc), one can search the Agricultural Marketing News publications, State Alternative Laws, and Pesticide Information Publications (PIP’s) from Oregon CES.

PENpages, gopher address: <psupen.psu.edu>
This gopher originates from Pennsylvania State University and holds a huge number of agriculturally related resources and documents. You may search PENpages by keyword or alphabetically, as well as by other menu choices. Small and Part-time Farming holds full text documents from the USDA Office of Small Scale Agriculture and from the USDA Extension/ PSU Small and Part-time Farming Project Publications list.
SANET, Sustainable Agriculture Network Discussion Group. Informational give and take on the Internet. Also distributes several newsletters and reports of interest to organic farmers including publications from the Henry A. Wallace Institute, Farm Aid, American Farmland Trust and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

An informational pamphlet, *Getting Started Electronically with the Sustainable Agriculture Network* is available through Sanet’s NAL office. (Contact: SAN Coordinator, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Room 304, Beltsville MD 20705-2351, 301-504-6425, email <san@nalusda.gov>)

If you would like more information on Electronic Resources, please contact our Information Center.