



Alternative Farming Systems Information Center
National Agricultural Library, USDA, ARS
<http://afsic.nal.usda.gov>

Great Places to Find Information about Farming Alternatives

Compiled by the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC)
301-504-6559; afsic@nal.usda.gov
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Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC)

AFSIC specializes in locating and accessing information related to alternative enterprises and crops as well as alternative cropping systems. Librarians/information specialists provide free library services on request: referrals to books, journal articles, Web sites, experts, and organizations and agencies. Their publications, "Quick Bibliographies," directories and reference guides include *Community Supported Agriculture Resources for Farmers*; *Organic Agricultural Products: Marketing and Trade Resources*; *Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture* and *Where to Find Sustainable Agriculture Research Online*. All publications are available full text online. Recently, AFSIC added to its Web site "Organic Roots," a searchable electronic collection of historic pre-1942 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Technical Bulletins* and *Farmers' Bulletins* related to organic agriculture.

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC), National Agricultural Library, Room 132, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville MD 20705-2351. Phone: 301-504-6559 or 301-504-6153; fax 301-504-6927; TDD/TTY: 301-504-6856. Contact form: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/contact/ask.php>
Web site: <http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/>

ATTRA – National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service

"ATTRA provides technical assistance to farmers, Extension agents, market gardeners, agricultural researchers, and other ag professionals... Topics addressed by ATTRA can be categorized into three broad areas: sustainable farming production practices, alternative crop and livestock enterprises, and innovative marketing." In addition to direct assistance via telephone and a recently added "Ask a Sustainable Agriculture Expert" e-mail service, ATTRA provides dozens of free online farmer-ready publications on specific practices, crops, and enterprises. Recent titles include *Organic Poultry Production in the United States*, *New Markets for Your Crops*, *Sweet Corn: Organic Production*, and *Farm Energy Calculators: Tools for saving money on the farm*. There are also newsletters, related links and resource guides.

ATTRA, P.O. Box 3657, Fayetteville AR 72702. Phone toll free: 800-346-9140 (English) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time; 800-411-3222 (Español) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time
Ask a Sustainable Agriculture Expert form: <http://www.attra.ncat.org/ask.php>
Web site: <http://attra.ncat.org/>

Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN)

SAN is the communications and outreach arm of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, a USDA-funded initiative that sponsors competitive grants for sustainable agriculture research and education. SAN is dedicated to the exchange of scientific and practical information on sustainable agriculture systems; its resources include the SANET-MG listserv, free bulletins, minimally priced CDs and books, and a searchable database of all funded SARE project reports. Their most recent downloadable books and bulletins: *Managing Cover Crops Profitably*, 3rd Edition; and *Clean Energy Farming: Cutting Costs*.

Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 046
BARC-WEST, Beltsville MD 20705-2350. Phone: 301-504-6425 or 301-504-5236; fax
301-504-5207. E-mail: outreach@SARE.org
Web site: <http://www.sare.org/>

Missouri Alternatives Center (MAC)

The Center serves “Missouri farmers, Extension staff, government personnel and people who want to begin farming, diversify their current operation, or find ways to profit from small amounts of acreage.” Anyone may access their Web site resources, which include an online newsletter, and a comprehensive database of full text, online Extension and related how-to publications from all states and on many alternatives, “from Asparagus to Watermelons, and Aquaculture to Worms.”

Missouri Alternatives Center (MAC). University of Missouri, 234 Ag Engineering
Building, Columbia MO 65211. Phone toll free: 800-433-3704 (Missouri only) or 573-882-
1905 (in Columbia). E-mail: agebb@missouri.edu
Web site: <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mac/index.htm>

Small Farm Center

While aimed at California producers, the Center offers a great deal of information useful to all. Publications for purchase include *Small Farm Handbook* and *The Specialty and Minor Crops* as well as *Production Practices and Sample Costs* booklets focusing on specific crops/geographic areas. The Center also features *Small Farm News*, directories of Extension publications and small farm advisors, and a searchable 1600 item online library that allows ordering of publications which can be sent out via mail or fax.

Small Farm Center, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis CA 95616-8699.
Phone: 530-752-8136; fax 530-752-7716. E-mail: sfcenter@ucdavis.edu
Web site: <http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/>

The New Farm: Farmer-to-Farmer Know-How from Rodale Institute

This renewed version of Rodale's *New Farm Magazine* is strictly online, and, presents “success stories with expert resources for crop and livestock production, direct marketing, local food systems, policy campaigns and community-building collaborations.” *New Farm* includes a newsletter, news stories, research reports, organic price reports, interactive discussions and surveys, and more.

New Farm. E-mail form: http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/contact_form
Web site: http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/new_farm

OrganicAgInfo

The Organic Agriculture Consortium (OAC)/Scientific Congress on Organic Agricultural Research (SCOAR) provides this collaborative database of “current, accurate, scientifically-based or practically validated information about organic agriculture. The site contains information on production, economic data, research results, farmer anecdotes, certification information, transition strategies, as well as many other subjects related to organic agriculture.”

OrganicAgInfo.

Web site: <http://www.organicaginfo.org/>

Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (AgMRC) - A National Information Resource for Value-added Agriculture

“AgMRC brings together experts from three of the nation’s leading agricultural universities - Iowa State University, Kansas State University and the University of California - into a dynamic, electronically based center to create and present information about value-added agriculture.” Sample resources include *Organic Food Trends Profile*, *Mushroom Industry Profile*, and *Aquaculture Profile*.

Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (AgMRC), 1111 NSRIC, Ames IA 50011.

Phone toll free: 866-277-5567. E-mail: AgMRC@iastate.edu

Web site: <http://www.agmrc.org/>

NewCROP, The New Crop Resource Online Program

The rich information at this site is available by searching on crop names; searching on state and county names for currently harvested crops and related USDA Census of Agriculture statistics; by accessing and downloading full text publications; finding related experts and conferences; and through an e-mail discussion group. Full text publications include proceedings of three National New Crops Symposia: *Advances in New Crops* (1990), *New Crops* (1993), and *Progress in New Crops* (1996).

NewCROP, Center for New Crops and Plant Products, Purdue University, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, 625 Agriculture Mall Drive, West Lafayette IN 47907-2010. Fax: 765-494-0391.

Web site: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/>

Plants for a Future: Resource and Information Centre for Edible and Otherwise Useful Plants

“*Plants For A Future* is a resource centre for rare and unusual plants, particularly those which have edible, medicinal or other uses.” Located in the UK, the center’s services include an online database, which currently describes 7,300 species of plants. The database is searchable by scientific name, common name or family; edible, medicinal or other use; or searchable by plants native to a particular area or a particular habitat. Enquiries about plants should be directed to the *Plants For A Future* mailing list, mailing list, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pfaf/>.

Plants for a Future.

Web site: <http://www.pfaf.org/>

USDA Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS) PLANTS Database: Alternative Crops

“Select crops that may be suitable for small scale farming by limited-resource farmers and small landowners.” Provides “Web links to cultural requirements and marketing strategies for the crops and states you choose.”

NRCS Plants Database: Alternative Crops.

Web site: <http://plants.usda.gov/>. Select “Alternative Crops” from the menu on the left side of the screen.

Aquaculture Network Information Center (AquaNIC)

AquaNIC strives to be “the gateway to the world’s electronic resources for aquaculture information and education.” It currently provides access to newsletters, discussion groups, publications, Web sites, job listings and more. There is also a searchable database of information on specific fish species and aquaculture systems. Primary funding for site comes from NOAA Sea Grant College Program with secondary support from USDA North Central Regional Aquaculture Center.

Aquaculture Network Information Center (AquaNIC).

Web site: <http://www.aquanic.org/>

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC)

ALBC works to conserve rare breeds and genetic diversity in livestock and operates as a clearinghouse for information on livestock and genetic diversity. They offer publications for sale; their “Links” page (<http://www.albc-usa.org/links.html>) is comprehensive.

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC), P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro NC 27312.
Phone: 919-542-5704; fax 919-545-0022. Contact form: <http://www.albc-usa.org/tellus.php>
Web site: <http://www.albc-usa.org/>

Growing for Market

A monthly magazine, *Growing for Market* focuses on “news and ideas for market gardeners.” Subjects include specialty produce, dried and cut flowers, and herbs; organic methods are emphasized. Feature articles are supplemented with resource information, commercial advertising, and an annual buyers guide to sources and suppliers. This magazine is available in print or electronic format, by subscription only.

Growing for Market, P.O. Box 3747, Lawrence KS 66046. Phone toll free: 800-307-8949 or 785-748-0605; fax 785-748-0609. Contact form: <http://www.growingformarket.com/static/contact>
Web site: <http://www.growingformarket.com/>

Acres USA

This “voice of eco-agriculture” covers commercial-scale organic and sustainable farming. Acres USA also offers books for purchase. This magazine is available by subscription only.

Acres USA. Phone toll free: 800-355-5313 (in the U.S. or Canada) or (512) 892-4400; fax 512-892-4448. Contact information: <http://www.acresusa.com/other/contact.htm>
Web site: <http://www.acresusa.com/magazines/magazine.htm>

Small Farm Today

“The original how-to magazine of alternative and traditional crops, livestock, and direct marketing;” published bi-monthly. Publisher/editor/farmer Ronald E. Macher also has written a book, *Making Your Small Farm Profitable*, aimed specifically at “beginning farmers or those seeking profitable alternatives.” Ordering information for the book, and for back issues of the magazine is available on the Web site. *Small Farm Today* also sponsors the annual National Small Farm Trade Show and Conference held in Columbia, MO. This magazine is available by subscription only.

Small Farm Today. Missouri Farm Publishing Inc., 3903 W. Ridge Trail Road, Clark MO 65243. Phone toll free: 800-633-2535 or 573-687-3525; fax 573-687-3148. E-mail: smallfarm@socket.net
Web site: <http://www.smallfarmtoday.com/>

Stockman Grass Farmer

This publication is “devoted solely to the art and science of making a profit from grassland agriculture.” It covers “not only commodity priced feeder cattle production but also natural grass finished and organic grass fed beef, seasonal, pasture-based dairying, grass fed lamb production, organic grass fed bison (buffalo) and pastured poultry.” This magazine is available by subscription only.

The Stockman Grass Farmer. P.O. Box 2300, Ridgeland MS 39158-9911. Phone toll free: 800-748-9808 or 601-853-1861; fax: 601-853-8087. E-mail: sgf@stockmangrassfarmer.com
Contact form: http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.net/Contact_Us.html
Web site: <http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.net/>

• This Reference Guide was produced by the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC), National Agricultural Library (NAL). For more information about this and similar publications, contact:

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