

**The Ohio State University**  
**Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center**

## Organic Farm and Food Education and Research Program

Survey of OEFFA, OCIA (Chapters 1 and 2), and IFO Members

1. Please check the category that best describes your farm operation.

- Check one:     All organic
- Mixed organic and conventional operation
- In transition towards being certified organic
- All conventional but interested in learning more about organic farming

2. How many years have you been farming organically?    \_\_\_\_\_ years

3. How many years has your farm been certified organic?    \_\_\_\_\_ years

4. Indicate the acreage you currently farm that applies to the following categories:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Total acres farmed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organic acreage (If less than one acre, report in square feet.)

5. In the 1998 production year, which of the following field crops were organically grown on your farm? (Please indicate number of acres of each crop grown.)

<b>Crop Category</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Crop Category</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Alfalfa	_____	Popcorn	_____
Barley	_____	Rye	_____
Clover	_____	Soybeans: feed	_____
Corn: livestock feed	_____	Soybeans: other	_____
Corn: other processing	_____	Spelt	_____
Dry Beans	_____	Turnips	_____
Hay: harvested	_____	Vetch, hairy	_____
Hay: grazed (pasture)	_____	Wheat	_____
Oats	_____	Other (please specify) _____	

6. For the 1998 production year, which of the following vegetable, herb, flower, or ornamental crops were organically grown on your farm for market? (Please estimate acres or square feet grown.)

<b>Crop Category</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>Square Feet</b>
Alliums: onions, garlic, shallots	_____		_____
Asparagus	_____		_____
Brassicas: cabbage, broccoli, kale...	_____		_____
Chenopods: beets, chard, spinach...	_____		_____
Composites: endive, lettuces....	_____		_____
Curcubits: cukes, melons, squash	_____		_____
Cut flowers	_____		_____
Herbs: culinary and medicinal	_____		_____
Legumes: market beans	_____		_____
Legumes: market peas	_____		_____
Mushrooms	_____		_____
Ornamentals: annual or perennial	_____		_____
Solanaceous: peppers	_____		_____
Solanaceous: potatoes	_____		_____
Solanaceous: tomatoes	_____		_____
Sweet corn	_____		_____
Umbrels	_____		_____

7. For the 1998 production year, which of the following fruit, nut, and tree crops were organically grown on your farm for market? (Please estimate acres of square feet grown.)

<b>Crop Category</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>Square Feet</b>
Berries — blueberries	_____		_____
Berries — brambles	_____		_____
Berries — strawberries	_____		_____
Christmas trees	_____		_____
Grapes — table, juice, or wine	_____		_____
Nursery trees	_____		_____
Pomes — apples, pears	_____		_____
Stone fruit — cherries, plums	_____		_____
Nut crops	_____		_____

8. For the 1998 production year, which of the following livestock and/or animal products were produced organically on your farm for market?

<b>Livestock/Animal Product</b>		<b>Livestock/Animal Product</b>	
Beef - finished on farm	_____ # of animals	Poultry - egg production	_____ # of dozens
Beef - sold as feeders	_____ # of animals	Poultry - meat production	_____ # of animals
Dairy cattle	_____ cwt milk	Sheep - meat and/or wool	_____ # of animals

9. What are your reasons for farming organically or being in transition to organic?

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10. How do you market your commodities? Check one of the following or if more than one applies, please indicate approximately what percent of gross sales is represented by each.

\_\_\_\_\_ Through a broker

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct contact with retail stores

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct contact with consumer by roadside stand, your own store, or farmers market

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct contact with consumer by CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please describe.) \_\_\_\_\_

11. How do you determine consumer demand? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. In terms of geographic regions, what are your primary and secondary marketing areas?

Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

13. If more Ohio State University resources were allocated to marketing, what research or information would be helpful to your marketing needs?

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14. What is your current organic rotation?

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15. What is your rotation for new ground in transition to be certified organic?

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16. Indicate your top three areas of concern or barriers to productivity. Rank the following with 1 being most important.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds             | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating loans        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insect pests      | <input type="checkbox"/> Quantity of labor      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant diseases    | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of labor       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil fertility    | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage of product     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yields            | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variety selection | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe) _____ |

17. In regards to your top three production concerns in question 16, please provide some detail as to the particular problems encountered such as specific weeds, insects, or labor issues.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you grow any commodities that are not certified organic?  Yes  No

- If yes, what are your non-certified organic commodities and why is your operation not totally organic?

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- If your goal is to be totally organic, is this goal shared by your family?  Yes  No

19. What do you consider to be the weak link in your entire organic management system?

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20. Is obtaining operating loans from banks a problem for you? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

- If a problem, what would convince a lender to support your plans?

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21. We need your input as to the research agenda we should develop to meet the needs of Ohio organic producers. Please provide suggestions for research questions OARDC should pursue in its new organic research initiative.

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21. What are your top three sources of information regarding organic production practices?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Ohio State University staff will tear the form here when it is received to maintain confidentiality of the previous responses.*

- On-farm field research will be a key component of OARDC's organic initiative. If you are willing to participate in organic on-farm research trials, please fill in the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Future organic agriculture studies will likely involve case studies or in-depth interviews.

Would you be willing to participate in such in-depth studies? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No