

Resources in Sustainable Agriculture

A great deal of information is available on sustainable agriculture. This pamphlet provides a starting point for finding both general and technical information on this topic.

Publications available through Iowa State University Extension

The resources listed here and many other publications related to sustainable agriculture are available through the ISU Extension Distribution Center, unless otherwise noted. The Distribution Center is located at 119 Printing and Publications Building, ISU, Ames, IA 50011-3171, phone (515) 294-5247, e-mail pubdist@iastate.edu. A catalog of ISU Extension publications can be ordered from the Distribution Center at no charge. The prices given below are subject to change. Shipping and handling charges may be added to mail orders. Items marked with an asterisk (*) also are available online at the Extension publications web site: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/>. For more information contact the ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture Program, 2104 Agronomy Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1010. (515) 294-1923; fax: (515) 294-9985.

Overview

Alternative Agriculture. National Research Council, 1989. National Academy of Sciences, Washington D.C. Contains case studies as well as a general discussion of sustainable agriculture. 450 pages. AG-1 \$7.50.

The New American Farmer: Profiles of Agricultural Innovation. USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. Contains brief descriptions of 50 sustainable farms located across the U.S. 159 pages. \$10, order from Sustainable Agriculture Publications, 210 Hills Building, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0082; (802) 656-0484. Available on-line at <http://www.sare.org/newfarmer/>.

Local Food Systems

Community Supported Agriculture—Local Food Systems for Iowa, PM 1692, first copy free, additional copies 50 cents *

Community Supported Agriculture: Iowa Farms and Organizers, PM 1693, free *

* Available online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/>

Iowa CSA Resource Guide for Producers and Organizers, PM 1694, 84 pages, \$5.00

Local Food Connections: From Farms to Schools, PM 1853a, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

The Legal Guide to Direct Farm Marketing, EDC-226, 246 pages, \$17.00

Food, Fuel, and Freeways: An Iowa perspective on how far food travels, fuel usage, and greenhouse gas emissions, free; order from Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 209 Curtiss Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011-1050; (515) 294-3711. Available on-line at <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/leopold/pubinfo/pubinfo.html>. Also available from the Leopold Center: *Comparing apples to apples: An Iowa perspective on apples and local food systems* and *Grape Expectations: A food system perspective on redeveloping the Iowa grape industry*.

Crop Production

Integrated Crop Management

Integrated Crop Management Newsletter, \$40.00/year. Detailed, timely information on scouting and pest and nutrient management.

Handbook for Integrated Crop Management, MFD 5, \$15.00/year

Nutrient Management

On-Farm Composting, 200 pages, NRAES 54, \$25.00

How to Sample Manure for Nutrient Analysis, PM 1558, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

Cornstalk Testing to Evaluate Nitrogen Management, PM 1584, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

Managing Manure Nutrients for Crop Production, PM 1811, 75 cents *

Considering Annual Clover? Don't Overlook Berseem, SA 7, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents

Odor and Nutrient Management Newsletter, free

Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 212 pages, EDC 201, \$19.00, available on-line at <http://www.sare.org/htdocs/pubs/>

Pest Management

Eight Ways to Reduce Pesticide Use, IPM 59, \$3.00 *

Integrated Pest Management—Insect Pests of Corn, IPM 31, \$1.00

Beneficial Insects in Field Crops, IPM 34, \$1.00

Reducing Herbicide Use in Field Crops, IPM 36, 50 cents

IPM of First Generation European Corn Borer, IPM 37, \$1.50

Integrated Pest Management—For Iowa Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Growers, (notebook) PDO 83, \$28.00

Crop Management and Environmental Materials 1995, PM 1413, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

Reducing Weed Pressure in Ridge-Till, SA 2, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

European Corn Borer: Ecology and Management, NCR 327, \$5.00.

New Possibilities for Biological Control of European Corn Borer, SA 4, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents

Relative Emergence Sequence for Weeds of Corn and Soybeans, 1997, SA 11, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

Handbook for Integrated Crop Management, MFD 5, \$15.00

Steel in the Field - A Farmer's Guide to Weed Management Tools, 128 pages, EDC 125, \$18.00, excerpts available on-line at <http://www.sare.org/htdocs/pubs/>

Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 212 pages, EDC 201, \$19.00, available on-line at <http://www.sare.org/htdocs/pubs/>

Alternative Agricultural Enterprises

(first copy free, additional copies 50 cents):

Strawberries, PM-1295A

Sod Production, PM-1295B

Maple Syrup Production, PM-1295C

Christmas Trees, PM-1295D

Fuelwood, PM-1295E

Raspberries, PM-1295F

Herbaceous Perennials, PM-1295G

Angora Goats, PM-1295H

Muskmelon, PM-1295I

Broccoli and Cauliflower, PM-1295J

Sweet Corn, PM-1295K

Snap Beans, PM-1295L

Rabbits, PM-1295M

Beekeeping, PM-1295P

Alternative Crops Primer, AG 135, \$1.00

Livestock

Pasture Management Guide for Livestock Producers, PM 1713, \$10.00

Hoop Structures for Gestating Swine, AED 44, Midwest Plan Service, \$4.00

Managing Market Pigs in Hoop Structures, PIH-138, 50 cents

Swine System Options for Iowa Outdoor Pig Production: An Approach that Works, SA 9, 75 cents *

Swine System Options for Iowa, SA 12, first copy free, additional copies 75 cents

Organic Poultry Resource Manual, \$15.00, order from Jefferson County Extension, 2606 W. Burlington, Fairfield, IA 52556, phone: (641) 472-4166, or access on the web at <http://www.iowaagopportunity.org/poultry/poultrymanual.html>

Warm-Season Grasses for Hay and Pasture, PM 569, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

Composting Dead Livestock: A New Solution to an Old Problem, SA 8, 75 cents *

Environmental Quality

Stewards of Our Streams—Riparian Buffer Systems, PM 1626A, first copy free, additional copies \$1.50

Stewards of Our Streams—Buffer Strip Design, Establishment and Maintenance, PM 1626B, first copy free, additional copies 50 cents *

Vegetative Filter Strips—For Improved Surface Water Quality, PM 1507, first copy free, additional copies 25 cents *

Agricultural Pesticide Impacts on Prairie Wetlands, PM 1520, free *

Agricultural Pesticides and Wildlife—A Balancing Act, PDO 36, first copy free, additional copies 10 cents

Sustainable Agriculture and Wildlife: Piecing Together a Habitat Puzzle, (youth education curriculum) EDC 3, \$25.00

Conservation Reserve Program Resource Manual, EDC 17, \$40.00

Conservation Reserve Program Series, CRP 1-21, first copies free, additional copies 10 to 50 cents each *

* Available online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/>

Videos

Videos can be a great tool for introducing sustainable agriculture concepts to a group, and they can also provide a visual dimension absent in printed publications.

Farm to Market: A Journey of Change and Independence. 20 minutes on innovative marketing approaches by sustainable farmers across America. Available for sale (\$20.00) from the ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture Program, 2104 Agronomy Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011. (515) 294-1923.

Walking the Journey. . . Sustainable Agriculture that Works. 22 minutes. An introduction to Dick and Sharon Thompson's farm and their journey towards a more sustainable agriculture. Available for sale (\$39.00) from the ISU Instructional Technology Center, 1200 Communications Building, ISU, Ames, IA 50011. (515) 294-8026.

Managed Grazing. Five videos, 12 to 21 minutes each, on managing pasture plants, animal management, year-round resource management, fencing and watering, and a general introduction. Available for sale (full set \$35.00) from Dan Morrical, Animal Science Department, 337 Kildee Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011-3150, (515) 294-2904, fax (515) 294-3795.

Touch the Earth . . . A Perspective on Agricultural Stewardship. 20 minutes, provides an introduction to the concepts of sustainable agriculture and examples from around the US. W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Available on loan from Jerry DeWitt or Practical Farmers of Iowa, ISU Agronomy Extension, Room 2104, Agronomy Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011-1010. (515) 294-1923, fax (515) 294-9985.

Books

Hundreds of books have been published on a wide range of topics related to sustainable agriculture.

Future Horizons is an annotated bibliography of sustainable agriculture books compiled in 1997. Copies can be ordered for \$ 10.00 from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation; Attn: Pam Murray; 221 Keim Hall; University of Nebraska; Lincoln, NE 68583-0953; (402) 472-9383; pmurray1@unl.edu, or you can access the bibliography at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/csas/extvol6.htm>.

Prairie Talk is an educational resource group that sponsors a lending library with books and videos about organic farming practices. These resources are housed at the Solon, Iowa, Public Library and are available to public library patrons throughout Iowa via interlibrary loan. For a listing, write to Prairie Talk at P.O. Box 733, Solon, IA 52333 or check the website at <http://www.prairietalk.org>.

The National Agricultural Library has compiled an extensive bibliography called "Sustainable Agriculture in Print: Current Books, *Special Reference Briefs Series* no. SRB 97-05," and it can be accessed on the web at http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/srb97-05.htm, or it can be ordered from the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, 10301 Baltimore Ave., Room 304, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351, Phone: (301) 504-6559.

The following organizations sell books on sustainable agriculture. Contact them for booklists and ordering information.

Country Store Books, 2101 W Broadway, PMB 229, Columbia MO 65203-1261, phone: (573) 442-9887

Chelsea Green Publishing Company, P.O. Box 428, Gates-Briggs Building #205, White River Junction, VT 05001, phone: (800) 639-4099, <http://www.chelseagreen.com>

Periodicals

Small Farm Today, bimonthly magazine, focuses on raising and marketing alternative crops, as well as other issues relevant to small farms. Also contains advertisements and information from alternative farm supply sources. \$23.95/year, 3903 W. Ridge Trail Road, Clark, MO 65243-9525, <http://www.smallfarmtoday.com>

Growing for Market, edited by Lynn Byczynski, is a monthly newsletter focusing on marketing, production, tools and equipment, and financial aspects of growing vegetables, flowers, fruits, and herbs. \$30.00/yr (800) 307-8949; P.O. Box 3747, Lawrence, KS 66046; <http://www.growingformarket.com>

Acres USA, a monthly tabloid, focusing on organic agriculture, with a strong anti-establishment philosophy. (800) 355-5313; <http://www.acresusa.com>

Organizations

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture funds research and demonstration projects on sustainable agriculture. The center also sponsors conferences, conducts educational programs on sustainable agriculture, and publishes a free quarterly newsletter. A listing of publications from the center is available. Contact the Leopold Center, 209 Curtiss Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011, (515) 294-3711, fax (515) 294-9696.

Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) supports information exchange on profitable, environmentally-sound farming through on-farm research, field days, workshops, meetings, and a quarterly newsletter. Regional lending libraries contain books and videos about sustainable agricultural practices. Membership is \$25.00 per year. Contact PFI coordinators at 2104 Agronomy Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011. (515) 294-1923 or 294-8512; fax (515) 294-9985.

Many other organizations are active in sustainable agriculture in Iowa and the North Central Region. For a more complete listing, see the ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture web page at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/sustag/> or call the Sustainable Agriculture program at (515) 294-1923.

ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) has papers on a wide variety of issues in sustainable agriculture production and marketing. In addition, ATTRA staff research and answer farming questions. Call them at (800) 346-9140 or check the web site at <http://www.attra.org/>.

The **Sustainable Agriculture Network** publishes a range of materials on sustainable agriculture, from free pamphlets to detailed technical books (some are available through ISU Extension, see above). Call (301) 504-6425 or check the web site at <http://www.sare.org/>.

Resources on the Web

A lot of information is available on the internet. Advantages of the internet are that it contains up-to-date information, is usually free, and is relatively quick and easy to access. Disadvantages are that much of the information on the web is superficial rather than detailed, it can be difficult to assess the reliability of the information, and high-quality computer, software, and internet connection are needed to access the information efficiently.

The ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture Program web page at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/sustag/> is a good starting point for your search. It includes a calendar of sustainable agriculture events from pasture walks and field days to conferences and courses in and around Iowa. In addition, it provides links to other web pages focused on sustainable agriculture, as well as contact information for many organizations and individuals active in sustainable agriculture in Iowa.

In addition, many internet listservs focus on aspects of sustainable agriculture. Listservs, also known as mail groups, consist of groups of subscribers who communicate by e-mail. A message posted to the listserv goes to all the subscribers. This format can promote lively discussion and very efficient information exchange among a large number of people. Subscription is usually free, and one can also unsubscribe at any time. The sanet-mg listserv focuses on sustainable agriculture in general. For more information on sanet-mg, or to subscribe, check the website at <http://www.sare.org/htdocs/hypermail/index.html> or e-mail the coordinator, Andy Clark, at san@nal.usda.gov

<http://www.ibiblio.org/intergarden/> lists a number of mail groups focused on sustainable and organic agriculture.

Compiled by Jerry DeWitt, Shelly Gradwell, and Diane Mayerfeld, ISU Extension Sustainable Agriculture Program

This publication is available on-line at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/>



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