KSU Organic Program
2011
Kentucky has unrealized potential to meet growing demand for organic food.
## Organic agriculture benefits farmers, consumers, environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmers</th>
<th>Consumers</th>
<th>Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premium prices</td>
<td>Third party certification of growing practices</td>
<td>Greater biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing demand</td>
<td>Mounting evidence of nutritional benefits (more vitamins, antioxidants)</td>
<td>Reduced fertilizer runoff</td>
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<td>No exposure to synthetic pesticides</td>
<td>Reduced pesticide residues</td>
<td>No synthetic pesticides added to air, water, soil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater energy independence</td>
<td>No routine antibiotics or growth hormones</td>
<td>Lower energy use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving soil quality</td>
<td>No genetically modified organisms</td>
<td>Carbon capture and storage in soil</td>
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<tr>
<td>(greater capacity to hold water and nutrients)</td>
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Premium prices for organic food

Week of Dec. 3rd 2010, Philadelphia, PA
Potential to use organic tactics for low-input biofuel feedstock production

“Because of its reduced energy inputs, organic agriculture is the ideal production method for biofuels.”

Ziesemer 2007, UN-FAO
KSU Program

• 11 ac of KSU farm certified organic
  – Vegetables
  – Fruit
  – Grain
  – Soil-building cover crops
  – Bioenergy feedstock crops
  – Winter production in solar heated high tunnel
  – On-farm biofuel processing
Organic Research

- Organic weed management
- Organic insect pest management
- Organic disease management
- Soil building
- On-farm biofuel production
Organic Extension

• Founded Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK), 2010

• Regular workshops on organic agriculture / low-input bioenergy

• Newsletters, pamphlets, websites, blogs, eXtension.org
It teaches you responsibility because it teaches you to water it every day. It teaches you teamwork because you have to share seeds with friends, water it with friends, and plant with friends.
Impacts

• Number of certified organic farms in Kentucky grows from 12 to 100+ between 2006 and 2010

• Organic Association of Kentucky launches with 91 members in 2010

• Local certified organic products increasingly available to Kentucky consumers

• County extension agents have local source of research-based information on organic agriculture
Kentucky Organic Farms, 2009

“I used to think I was the only one…”

Kentucky organic farmer
Goals

• Continued growth of Kentucky’s organic sector
• Energy independent organic farms meet their own fuel needs to supply local food
• Conventional producers increasingly adopt elements of organic agriculture to enhance sustainability