



2011 Organic Practices Survey

- How would you define your growing practices? (check all that apply)
 - Organic, Certified
 - Organic practices, not certified
 - No till (restricted tillage systems that limit tillage to the area around the plant)
 - Sustainable
 - IPM
 - Grazing Based
 - Conventional
 - Other (Please specify _____)
- How many years have you done the following (if not applicable, please leave blank):
 - Worked on a farm: _____
 - Managed/owned a farm: _____
 - Farmed organic, not certified: _____
 - Farmed organic, certified: _____
- If you are not farming organically, do you intend to transition to organic practices. YES ___ NO ___
 - If yes, in what time frame will you be making the transition? _____
 - If yes, do you intend to become certified organic? YES _____ NO _____
- If you are farming organically, do you intend to become certified? YES ___ NO ___
 - If yes, how soon do you expect to be certified? _____
- If you are certified organic, how many years have you had certification? _____
- In 2011, how many acres (owned and rented) did you farm?
 - Total tillable acres _____
 - Total pasture acres _____ Additional owned forest acres? _____
- Do you participate in any of the following? (Select **all** that your farm received at any time in the last 5 years.)
 - Federal farm commodity payments
 - Federal conservation payments (e.g., CRP payments)
 - State and private conservation payments (e.g. Chesapeake Bay Program)
 - Preferential land tax assessment (e.g., Clean and Green)
- Please indicate whether or not your farm operation had any type of livestock, poultry, fish, or other animals during the past year. Please also indicate whether or not your farm operation had any type of the following crop, vegetable, timber, or horticultural products.

	Animals		Crops	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Beef cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alfalfa/hay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dairy cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corn/soybeans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hogs, pigs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other grains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small fruits and brambles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheep, lambs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree fruits/nuts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goats, kids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish or aquaculture products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pasture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chickens (broilers, layers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timber/wood products	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other poultry (turkeys, ducks, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horticulture plants/ nursery crops/flowers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>



2011 Organic Practices Survey

9. For each of the following factors, please indicate the extent to which the factor has influenced your use of production practices that are considered "Organic".

Factors	Not Applicable	Significantly Limited	Somewhat Limited	Slightly Limited	Has Not Limited
Lack of interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of decision-making authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need to care for children or other family members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need to work off-farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of family support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of farming experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious Beliefs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. For each of the following factors, please indicate the extent to which each has limited your ability to build your farm's organic business?

Factors	Not Applicable	Significantly Limited	Somewhat Limited	Slightly Limited	Has Not Limited
Lack of interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of decision-making authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need to care for children or other family members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need to work off-farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of family support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of farming experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious Beliefs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation of goods to market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulations and labeling / certification issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Listed below are several sources of information for farmers regarding organic agriculture. Please indicate whether or not you have had contact with these sources over the past year. If you have had contact, please rate the quality of the interaction you had with the contact.

Sources of Information	Any contact over past year?		What was the quality of this contact?		
	No	Yes	Low	Limited	High
University or government sources: NRCS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Penn State Extension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cornell Cooperative Extension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm Services Administration (FSA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2011 Organic Practices Survey



Farm and commodity organizations:

Farmers Union

Farm Bureau

Sustainable Ag organizations / Organic certifiers: PASA

PCO (Pa. Certified Organic)

NOFA – NY

Food Alliance

Certified Naturally Grown

Other organic or sustainable certifier (name):

Ag Industry Reps (contractors, consultants, sales / suppliers, milk co-ops, etc.) (Please name)

Other farmers

Family members

Rodale Institute

Media Sources: Websites (please name)

Publications (please name)

Northern Tier Buy Fresh Buy Local / Food Routes

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. With regards to the sources of information above, what methods were used to best deliver information to you? (For example; one-on-one farm visits, workshops, trainings, field days, handouts, websites, publications, etc.)

13. What are your preferred ways of receiving information and/or education? (**circle** choices)

- Email Mail Phone Webinars Websites Books Field Days
- Workshops Conferences Magazines Courses

Other (name): _____

14. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following factors have limited your ability to seek information or educational opportunities about organic agriculture.

Factors	Not Applicable	Significantly Limited	Somewhat Limited	Slightly Limited	Has Not Limited
Lack of interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complications due to farm business structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need to care for children or other family members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need to work off-farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know who to ask for help	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know what to ask for	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of prior assistance was inadequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No information/educational programs support my interest(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2011 Organic Practices Survey



15. What topics about organic production practices and business are you interested in receiving more information or education about? (For example: marking, labeling, certification, general practices, etc.) Please be specific.

16. Listed below are a number of potential sales outlets for farm products. Which of these have you used in the past three years? (*Select all that apply.*)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct, wholesale (institutions, bulk orders) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commodity market | <input type="checkbox"/> Community supported agriculture (CSA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale buyer or contractor | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep for personal use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative | <input type="checkbox"/> Barter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct, retail (farmers' markets, farm stands/stores) | <input type="checkbox"/> Online |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

17. In the past three years, indicate if you engaged in any of the following strategies to add value to your farm products. (*Select all that apply.*)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Value-added production | <input type="checkbox"/> On-farm processing (e.g., cheesemaking) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm tours or other agri-tainment (e.g., corn maze) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bed and breakfast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-farm education | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty production (i.e., specific cultivars) | <input type="checkbox"/> CSAs and/or farmers' market |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local labeling (e.g., Buy Fresh Buy Local) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

18. What are the primary obstacles to making your farming operation more profitable (please be as specific as possible)? _____

19. Do you need help marketing your product(s)? Yes ___ No ___

If "yes", What product(s) do you need help marketing? _____

Please explain your marketing need(s) for your product(s): _____

20. Do you have a business plan for your farm operation? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, is it up to date? Yes ___ No ___

If no, do you need assistance in bringing it up to date? Yes ___ No ___

If you do not have a business plan, do you need assistance in creating one? Yes ___ No ___

21. Are you interested in working on Organic certification? ___ Yes ___ No

If so, would you be interested in: **a.** an Introductory workshop **b.** a full certification training **(circle one)**



2011 Organic Practices Survey

22. What one thing would be of most value in making your farming operation more profitable? Please explain: _____

23. Are you listed on the Buy Local PA website? _____ Yes _____ No

24. Are you a member of the Northern Tier chapter of Buy Fresh Buy Local? _____ Yes _____ No

Please help us understand a bit more about you.

What state do you live in? _____ What county do you live in? _____

In what year were you born? _____ Are you: Female _____ Male _____

What is the highest level of education you received?

- Never attended school
- Some schooling but not a high school graduate
- High school graduate
- Vocational or technical school beyond high school (includes apprenticeships)
- Some college
- Four-year college degree
- Post-graduate education

Contact Information (Optional)

(This information may be used to contact you regarding organic related workshops or meetings and/or Northern Tier Buy Fresh Buy Local and Endless Mtns. RC & D activities. It will never be sold to an outside party.)

Name

Farm name

Address

Town

State

Zip Code

Email

Phone

Please return this survey by October 14, 2011 to:

Northern Tier Buy Fresh Buy Local, 1 Washington St., Towanda, PA 18848

Questions? Call Ruth Tonachel or Kathy Joyce at 570-265-7455