

OMB Approval Number #####
Expiration Date ##/##/####

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Risk Management Agency/The Rodale Institute
Survey

Baseline Survey/Agricultural Educators

All information collected in this survey is confidential and will be used for research purposes only. Data will be reported in the aggregate and no individual information will be disclosed.



According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this collection is #####. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, searching existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collected.

Invitation for baseline survey/Agriculture Educators

Thank you for registering for the FarmSelect Transition to Organic Course and taking full advantage of the series of tools you can use to track your progress, including the "Building Your Organic Farm Plan" feature.

Before you begin using the FarmSelect tools, we'd like to give you the opportunity to tell us a little more about yourself and your experiences with agricultural education.

As a thank you for taking the time to chat with us, you'll receive a \$10 gift certificate to spend however you'd like in our online bookstore. We'll keep your information confidential and will only use the answers you provide to improve our tools and service to you.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

The FarmSelect Team

If you experience any problems or difficulties accessing the survey or if you have any questions please contact us at:
helpdesk@farmselect.org or at (610) 683-1400.

Baseline Survey Farm Select: Agriculture Educator

1. As part of your job, do you ever address issues concerning organic agriculture practices?

[Choose one]

- Never
- Occasionally
- Regularly

2. Are you involved in organic agriculture research? [Choose one]

- Yes, organic agriculture is my primary research focus
- Yes, organic agriculture topics are well integrated in my research agenda
- I am beginning to include organic agriculture topics in my research plan
- I used to be involved in the past but I am not at this time
- No, I do not conduct organic agriculture research at this time

3. Do you provide information or training in organic agriculture to farmers, students, or Extension Specialists? [Choose one]

- Yes
- No

4. If yes, approximately how many farmers, students, or Extension Specialists do you reach annually? [Enter number for each category]

Number of farmers _____
 Number of students _____
 Number of Extension Specialists _____

5. Approximately how many requests for assistance and training in organic agriculture have you received from farmers, students, or Extension Specialists over the last year?

[Enter number of requests]

Farmers _____ Students _____ • Extension Specialists _____

6. Please rate the degree to which you are assisting farmers/students in using the following methods: [Choose one for each method]

| | Not at all | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | A great deal |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| Composting | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Cover crops | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Crop rotation | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Soil testing | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Reduced tillage | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Weed management | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Biological disease management | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Biological pest management | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Marketing organic products | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Agricultural enterprise development | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Other _____ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| None of the above | | | | | | | |

7. How do you rate the overall interest in transitioning to organic among the farmers, students, and Extension Specialists you work with? [Choose one for each group]

| | Interest Level | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Very high | High | Moderate | Low | Very low | N/A or DK |
| Farmers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Extension Specialists | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Students | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

8. At this time, do you have access to enough information on organic agriculture to effectively advise farmers and Extension Specialists? [Choose one]

- Yes
- No

9. At this time, do you have access to effective tools and resources to support your work in organic agriculture? [Choose one]

- Yes
- No

10. Do you use the Internet to retrieve information about organic production methods? [Choose one]

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Do not use

11. Do you use the Internet to provide information and training in organic agriculture to farmers or other Extension personnel? [Choose one]

- Never
- Occasionally
- Regularly

12. How would you describe your knowledge about transitioning to organic in general and organic economics in particular? [Choose one for each topic]

| Topic | Current Knowledge Level | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | None | Limited | Some | Advanced | Expert |
| Transitioning to organic | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Organic economics | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

13. How would you describe your skills and practical experience in transitioning to organic? [Choose one]

- I have no experience
- I have some experience
- I have considerable experience
- Other, please specify _____

14. Overall, how knowledgeable would you say you are about the following topics on a scale from 1 - "Novice" to 5 - "Expert" [Choose one for each topic]

| Topic | Current Knowledge Level | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| | Novice | | | | Expert | |
| Organic production methods | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | N/A |
| Organic economics | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | N/A |
| Organic marketing | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | N/A |

15. How confident are you that you can successfully advise a farmer interested in transitioning to organic? [Choose one]

Not confident at all

1

2

3

4

Very confident

5

N/A

16. How confident do you feel that you can successfully integrate organic agriculture topics in your research and teaching work? [Choose one]

Not confident at all

1

2

3

4

Very confident

5

N/A

17. At this time, do you have any immediate plans to integrate organic topics in your research, teaching, or training work? [Choose one]

Yes

No

18. Which statement best describes your future plans? [Choose one]

I intend to fully integrate organic topics in my research, teaching, and training work.

I intend to integrate organic topics in my work only to the extent that I need to respond to requests from and advise farmers.

I intend to stay well informed about organic topics without getting involved in researching, teaching or providing training in organic methods.

I intend to stay informed about organic topics just as I would about any other topic in my profession.

19. Any other comments you would like to make about your future plans in reference to organic agriculture?
