Newsletter

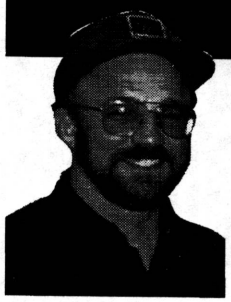
ifo news

INNOVATIVE FARMERS OF OHIO

...A GRASSROOTS NETWORK OF OHIO FARMERS

SUMMER 1996 VOL 3. ISSUE 2

...CHANGE



By Charlie Eselgroth

CHANGE. We've all heard the saying "the only thing that remains constant is change".

How true. Nothing ever remains the same. Whether a specific change is considered good varies dramatically with the individual. We all have our own unique perspective. And just because change is inevitable doesn't mean that we shouldn't do everything we can to manage it and push it in the way we want it to go. We all want a higher percentage of "good" change. Over the years I've read numerous articles, and even had a few people tell me directly, that anyone practicing or promoting sustainable agriculture is trying to "turn back the clock" and to "stop change from occurring". How absurd! If anything, sustainable agriculture is promoting more change than any other segment of agriculture. Let's look at the facts. Sustainable farmers are at the forefront of many cutting edge technologies, such as management intensive grazing, cover crops, nitrogen management, pastured poultry, alternative crops, and rotations to maintain fertility and control insects, weeds and disease. Many sustainable farmers direct market their products through farmers markets or CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture). Quite a change from taking your crop to town and accepting whatever the wholesaler offers. We even have an IFO board member, Joe Hartzler, who along with his family, has constructed the first new dairy processing plant to

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GET READY FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL IFO MEETING

Mark your calendars for ***January 18, 1997*** and watch your mailbox for the details regarding this years' exciting, informative, and entertaining family event!!

Hartzler Family Dairy Showcased

On April 24, over 40 people associated with various aspects of agriculture were served a delicious home-grown and cooked lunch at the "Hartzler Family Dairy" - a new specialty retail store and restaurant on Route 3, just north of Wooster - to celebrate the recent launching of a truly innovative family enterprise.

IFO members - Harold and Pat Hartzler, along with their eight children and spouses, process organically produced milk from five farms the family operates. They retail non-homogenized milk in glass bottles along with ice cream for

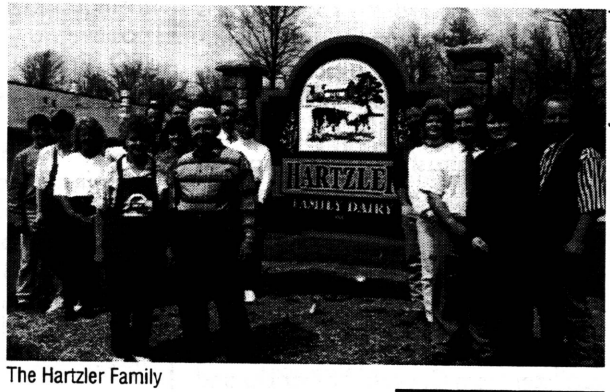

photo courtesy of Michael Coté

The Hartzler Family

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CHANGE

open in Ohio in approximately 30 years. They process and retail their own premium quality milk, produced on their own farms with no chemicals or commercial fertilizers. This sure doesn't sound like resistance to change to me. But actually, the things that I have listed aren't the most important changes that sustainable agriculture promotes. The practices listed above are merely results of the most basic change that sustainable producers make: the realization that our rural communities cannot thrive without the farmers supporting the community and the community supporting the farmers. If you look back at the practices I've listed, you will see that all are technologies that use resources that are already on the farm or in the community. With the exception of Hartzler's processing plant, all have low capital requirements, relying more on farmer knowledge and skill to produce crops and profits comparable to conventional farms. All the practices listed keep a higher proportion of revenue in the community than conventional farming. Contrast this to the changes that are being touted in the conventional farm media this past winter: spend $25,000.00 to equip your machinery with the latest satellite positioning technology so you can vary rates and maybe save some money on the fertilizer from Canada or Florida and the nitrogen and herbicides from some gas and oil wells (hopefully in this country, not the Middle East). Then haul the grain 100 miles up the road to the egg factory with 5 million chickens or the hog farm with 50,000 sows. Oh, by the way, to afford the satellite technology, you need to expand your acreage. Better see if you can bid that 300 rented acres away from your neighbor. He's been farming it for 20 years, and he's a nice guy, but hey, business is business. How much of this farm's revenues stays in the community? Which kind of change do you want?

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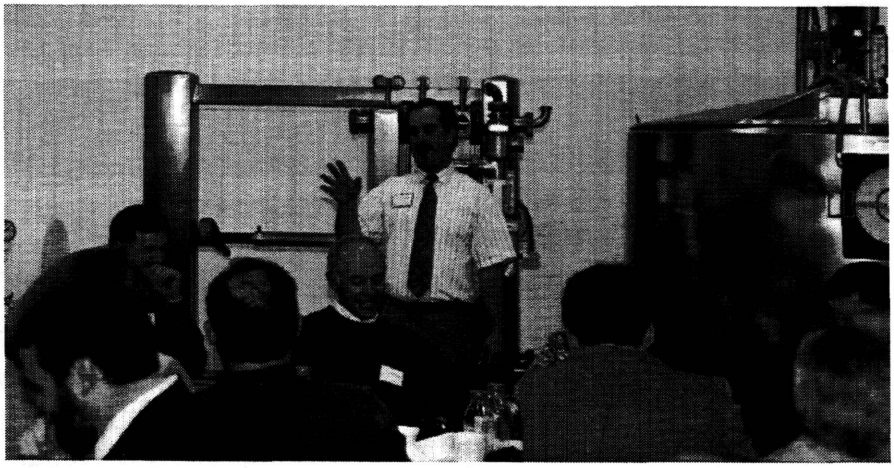
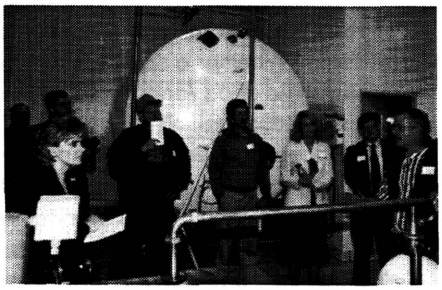
Hartzler Family Dairy Showcased



photos courtesy of Michael Coté



starters. Other dairy products will eventually be offered at the store front, as well as locally grown and processed meats and seasonal produce.

The Hartzler Family Dairy serves the local community by linking non-rural and non- farming community members to their rural neighbors in a positive way, which is a major goal of IFO. Patrons can see for themselves where the milk they purchase comes from and how it is processed. Money spent and earned in the community remains in the community, enhancing local economic activity. The Hartzlers are also demonstrating that value-adding and direct marketing are viable alternatives to the "get big or get out" advice that dairy and other farmers have been getting in recent years.

The Hartzler clan has been farming without chemical pesticides for over 30 years - ever since Harold had a nasty experience with herbicides that convinced him that he was better off without them. Harold's son, Joe, who is also an IFO Board Member, has known no other way, and can attest to its success.

While IFO does not espouse any one particular farming system, the Hartzler Family Dairy is an excellent example of what IFO is about: promoting an agriculture that preserves and strengthens the well-being of Ohio's farms, farm families and rural communities, while protecting Ohio's land and waterways. Besides that, they make great ice cream, too!

IFO is proud to highlight its members' accomplishments and innovations. We encourage local and state agencies and other institutions to promote more partnering enterprises with grassroots organizations such as ours to assure the social and economic health of Ohio farmers and to engender respect for the land that we all must steward.

by Louise Warner

Ed Zaborski has his Eyes on the Western Horizon

No, he is not yearning for a sunset. Nor is he yearning for far-off places. Unfortunately, Ed is leaving Ohio to take a new position with the Illinois Natural History Survey. Ed has mixed feelings about leaving Ohio, his friends, his work, and his first home.

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ifo NEWS

NEWS FROM THE GREAT LAKES BASIN WHOLE FARM PLANNING NETWORK

THE BASIC WHOLE FARM PLAN

A new tool is emerging for farmers who are frustrated with trying to integrate a number of diverse changes on their farm. Whole farm planning is a concept gaining increasing momentum as a way to pull together decision-making on environmental, economic, and production concerns.

In fact, whole farm planning is being simultaneously invented in at least a dozen styles under different circumstances. In order to best learn from these different approaches, The Great Lakes Farm Planning Network has put their heads together to share their collective wisdom about what should be part of good whole farm planning tools. The Innovative Farmers of Ohio is one of the cooperating farmer organizations in the network.

After months of discussion within the individual state and province working groups and a mail survey of interested members of the farm community, the Network steering committee met this spring to find a consensus on what should constitute a whole farm plan.

It is not hard to start envisioning the ideal farm plan, one that would encompass every known fact and desire for that particular piece of land. However, such a plan would be too daunting to complete and unlikely to get off the ground. The goal of the Network at this stage is to envision **minimum criteria**, the very basics needed in order to call something good whole farm planning.

The 'magic' of whole farm planning comes when all the problems and possible solutions are pulled together and plugged back into the farmers' goals. When different components are integrated, then how they affect each other can be considered, and better solutions can be designed to fit that unique farm. The development of the farmer's action plan is the written result of that integration process.

The Great Lakes Comprehensive Farm Planning Network believes that there are many ways to develop a good whole farm plan but do not want to prescribe any one approach. By focusing on the minimum criteria to be included in a whole farm plan, we hope to help the farm planning process continue to evolve.

A good whole farm plan must accomplish these goals:

1 Reduced water pollution
2 Reduced soil erosion
3 Improved farm profitability
4 Improved management of pests and pesticides
5 Improved nutrient management, including manure and fertilizer

A good whole farm planning process must include these qualities:

1 The farmer is in charge of the plan
2 The farmer sets goals for the plan
3 Problem areas are clearly identified
4 Alternative options are considered
5 The cost-effectiveness of options are considered
6 The planning process is encouraging, easy to understand, and educational
7 The farmer develops an action plan, with adequate timelines for implementation
8 The plan is flexible, allowing for necessary day to day changes
9 Technical assistance is available
10 The entire farm is included in the plan
11 Planning is voluntary
12 The farm plan itself is confidential
13 Progress on implementing the plan is measured (by the farmer), and the plan is revisited

The content for a good whole farm plan must include at least these elements:

1 Farm family goals
2 Economic viability of the farm
3 Water quality
4 Nutrient management (including manure and feedlot management if applicable)
5 Water management (including wetlands, drainage, and floodplains if applicable)
6 Pest management
7 Soil conservation
8 Soil quality
9 Crop rotations
10 Tillage

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121 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithica, New York 14853
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email: ar47@cornell.edu

"WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS"

In addition to Ed Zaborski's departure to Illinois, Anusuya (Anu) Rangarajan has moved on to greener pastures at Cornell University. Anu has been a major player in promoting greater networking among farmers, farmer groups, and agricultural agencies. She served as coordinator for an IFO grant on whole farm planning, (WFP), working with the Minnesota Project and the Great Lakes Basin Comprehensive Farm Planning Network, a WFP coalition funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund. She will be missed as everyone greatly appreciates her efforts on IFO's behalf. She can be contacted at the address above. Good Luck Anu!

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Ed Zaborski has his Eyes on the Western Horizon

The position he has accepted was just "too good to refuse". Ed knows that positions and career opportunities like this don't come around often, especially in Ohio.

Ed is a recent doctoral graduate from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where he studied soil ecology, focussing on soil microbial and faunal activity in corn-soybean agroecosystems. Since 1992, Ed has been a research associate at OARDC in the Department of Entomology, working with Ben and Deb Stinner. IFO has been able to utilize his expertise in coordinating and conducting on-farm research trials on a number of farms, working closely with IFO farmer cooperators and OSU faculty.

Ed was a major player in much of the early thinking and coordinating during the formative years of IFO. Much of the positive reputation IFO has received has been through Ed's efforts. He has always been an advocate for farmers, promoting greater involvement by farmers in doing their own on-farm research, asking and seeking answers to the questions that are most relevant to them and their farms.

Ed is going to be seriously missed. He's got all of us left behind scrambling, trying to figure-out how we are going to fill his shoes. One bit of good news: Ed will be maintaining ties in Ohio as Project Coordinator for a SARE grant that involves IFO farmer cooperators.

If you've got unfinished business with Ed, including showing an appreciation for what he has done for IFO or your farm, you can contact him at: Illinois Natural History Survey, Center for Economic Entomology, 607 E. Peabody Dr., Champaign, IL 61820-6970 • Phone: 217/333-7090. THANKS ED, and GOOD LUCK!!

Is It Time To BECOME a Member or RENEW Your Membership With IFO?

In an effort to make IFO known to as many people as possible and to expand membership, IFO has had a policy during its founding years of sending all newsletters and on-farm research findings to all people on IFO's mailing list, regardless of their membership status. While we may be able to continue sending sample newsletters to potential new members and send complimentary copies to organizations with similar goals and interests, the era of "freebies" is coming to an end after this issue and after sending out the 1995 on-farm research report. We will continue to add to our mailing for general notification purposes of meetings, farm tours, and topics of importance to the general public.

If your mailing label is circled in red, this means you either need to become a member or need to renew your membership (or your membership lapsed in 1995 or earlier) if you wish to continue receiving our newsletters and on-farm research reports.

Your membership is important for the continued success of Innovative Farmers of Ohio.

Community Supported Agriculture. . . Making the Connection

A 1995 Handbook for Producers has been presented by University of California Cooperative Extension, Placer County and Small Farm Center, UC Davis. It's 198 pages long, in binder format.

Books and manuals on Community Supported Agriculture to date have focused largely on specific farms, and have interested hundreds of growers to start their own projects. "Making the Connection" pulls together the experience of many innovative projects. While describing the diversity of CSA, this handbook for producers also addresses common questions and concerns. Major topics covered are: - What is CSA? - Developing a CSA - Finding and keeping members - Production for CSA - Managing the shares. In addition to the narrative text and examples from CSA farms across the country, "Making the Connection" includes simple forms for use in running CSA projects. Charts for planning production offer handy information, and worksheets will help farmers consider their own situations. This handbook also provides additional detail on such topics as legal issues of CSAs, writing newsletters, and postharvest handling.

For more information...Shirley Johnson, Office Manager Placer County UCCE Attn: CSA Handbook, 11477 E Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603 • 916-889-7385 • FAX 916-889-7397

ceplacer@ucdavis.edu

FROM THE CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS:

FINANCING BEGINNING FARMERS: An Evaluation of Farm Service Agency Credit Programs includes a complete evaluation of USDA Beginning Farmer Loan Programs. This publication is free.

FROM THE CARCASS TO THE KITCHEN: Competition and the Wholesale Meat Market–a hard-hitting look at the components of meat marketing and what they mean for farmers. This publication costs $10.00. To request either publication, contact the Center for Rural Affairs, PO Box 406, Walthill, NE 68067; (402) 856-5428.

"events" CALENDAR

The next IFO Board Meeting is at 10:00 am on December 10 (Tuesday) at the Stratford Ecological Center, in Delaware, OH.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. If you plan to attend this meeting and need more information, you can contact Jeff Dickinson at Stratford (at 3083 Liberty Road, Delaware, OH, 43015, or call 614-363-2548)

CALENDAR OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE EVENTS

Events of Interest: from the Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Contact CSAS office for more information:

NOV. 1-2 — PROFIT FROM DIVERSITY, Small Farm Trade Show & Seminars, Columbia, MO (speakers will include Joel Salatin [Polyface Farms], Andy Lee and Howard-Yana Shapiro).

NOV. 11-16 — 14TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Pam Murray, Coordinator Center for Grassland Studies and Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems PO Box 830949 University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE 68583-0949 phone: 402-472-9383 fax: 402-472-4104 e-mail: csas001@unlvm.unl.edu

SEPTEMBER 26-29, 1996 EVENT: 17TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARDENING CONFERENCE

PLACE: Montreal, Canada Contact: (From USA) (415) 285-7548; FAX (415) 285-7586; (From Canada) (514) 876-6363; FAX (514) 872-4583 Sponsor: American Community Gardening Association (ACGA)

JUNE 8-9, 1997 EVENT: XVIII INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS '97: "GRASSLANDS 2000"

PLACE: Winnipeg, Manitoba (6/8-12), and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (6/15-19), Canada Contact: amc@supernet.ab.ca; (403) 244-4487; FAX: 244-2340 Sponsor: Government of Canada; Government of Manitoba; Government of Saskatchewan; Agricultural Institute of Canada; Canadian Forage Council; Forage and Grassland Foundation; Department of Western Economic Diversification; American Society of Agronomy; Crop Science Society of America; and others...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The writers for IFO News would like to introduce a new item to become a regular feature for future newsletters. The title suggests that this can be somewhat open-ended, and we are certainly open to ideas to be included in following issues. The idea is to present small pieces of wisdom from those who have seriously considered farmers, their families, their farms, their communities, and their abilities to sustain themselves and others. It seems fitting to first draw from Ohio's own, Gene Logsdon, noted author, who farms and lives with his wife Carol in Wyanot county. This excerpt is from "The Contrary Farmer" .

"The most difficult problem that an agricultural writer faces is convincing readers that farming is very much a part of the whole societal structure, not just another job by which a person makes a living. Therefore, what happens out in the countryside in one century invariably affects the cities in the next century, and often there is not even that much of a time gap. Food is the common denominator of life; producing food is part of the biological and cultural as well as economic fabric of a civilization. Although historians should continue to question the precise causal connections between rural and urban economies, it is a fact that a strong and vital urban society has always been supported by a strong and vital rural society. General decline in the Roman empire, the British empire, and the Russian Communist empire paralleled if not followed the decline of their rural communities. The same thing is happening in the United States, in my opinion, only we don't realize it yet."

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FORMS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE EXTENSION TEAM

STEVE BAERTSCHE - Assistant Director
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension, 32 Agriculture Administration Building
2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210 • Phone: (614) 292-4077 • Fax: (614) 292-3747

In 1995, Assistant Director for Extension at OSU, Steve Baertsche, initiated the idea of forming an Extension team, modelled after other commodity type teams in Extension, that pulled members from these teams to form an interdisciplinary team focussing on sustainable agriculture. The main objective of the team was to share information about sustainable agriculture among Extension members and to connect with the leading farmers' organizations and agricultural agencies involved with or interested in sustainable agriculture. Shortly after, Steve announced that this Extension team would be co-chaired by two Extension members: Mark Bennett and Mike Hogan.

In addition to commodity team representatives, Charles Eselgroth, President of IFO, and Molly Bartlett, President of Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) are also team members. There are also representatives from NRCS and SWCD's. Together these people plan to collaborate on a number of on-farm research projects, including a recently funded two-year project evaluating nutrient cycling of rotationally grazed pasture systems. This team has also been involved in "Chapter III" sustainable agriculture training and education for Extension personnel, farm tours, field days and workshops.

Tim Barkley, a 50% Extension appointment, has been finding and storing sustainable agriculture information and resources for use by farmers and Extension agents. Mike Hogan is responsible for getting a quarterly newsletter out to Extension and other interested people. Many members of the team are accessible by e-mail.

This team recently met at the Stratford Ecological Center (March 12, 1996). During this meeting, two new collaborative grant proposals were presented, that were submitted to the North Central Region's Chapter III funding program. One proposal focussed on further developing a statewide sustainable agriculture team, the other suggested using "whole farm planning" as a tool for educating agricultural professionals and farm families about sustainable agriculture. The Whole Farm Planning Grant has been funded.

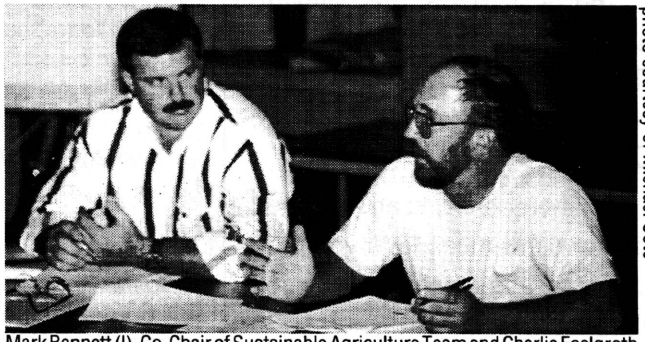


photo courtesy of Michael Coté

Mark Bennett (l), Co-Chair of Sustainable Agriculture Team and Charlie Eselgroth (r), President of IFO at the 1st team meeting held Oct. 19, 1995 during the Ohio-West Virginia Sustainable Agriculture In-Service

So, if there is information you would like to share with OSU Extension on sustainable agriculture, or if you're looking for more information on sustainable agriculture from your land grant university, now is the time to do it. You can reach Mark Bennett in Knox County at 614-397-0401 or Mike Hogan in Carroll County at 330-627-4310.

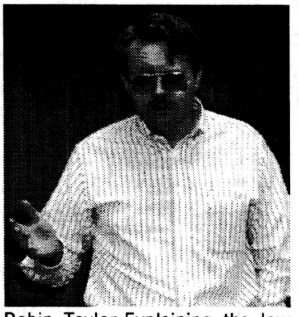
photo courtesy of Michael Coté

Members of the Sustainable Ag Team representing farmers, OSU Extension, OARDC and NRCS at the March 12, 1996 meeting held at the Stratford Ecological Center

IFO HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL ON-FARM RESEARCH COOPERATORS MEETING

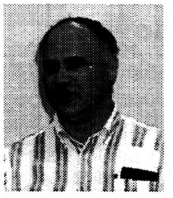
As IFO continues to grow and more farmers voice an interest in conducting on-farm research, it is becoming apparent that we need more opportunities for information sharing. In addition, both Ohio State University Extension and Natural Resource Conservation Service agents have expressed an interest in collaborating with IFO members to do research on alternative, innovative production practices.

To kick off this process, IFO hosted its first On-Farm Research Cooperators Meeting on March 15, 1996. The goal of this meting was to prepare new cooperators interested in setting up on-farm trials. We started by sharing examples of on-farm research IFO members have conducted in the past, including evaluation of cover crops for fertility management and weed control and use of the pre-side dress soil nitrate test to fine tune corn nitrogen management. The afternoon session was devoted to providing farmers and agents with the basic information needed to set up and conduct on-farm trials successfully. Phil Rzewnicki, an extension agent from Pennsylvania, facilitated this training. Phil worked extensively with the Practical Farmers of Iowa in identifying appropriate experimental designs for on-farm research. These designs accommodate farmer time and machinery constraints while providing the necessary replication and randomization needed to generate scientifically valid research results. All of the participants came to understand how farmers, on their own piece of land, can test alternative practices and have confidence in the results and at the same time contribute to agricultural research and extension for the benefits of all farmers.



Robin Taylor-Explaining the low overspray nozzle design

IFO On-Farm Research Trials for 1996:



Rich Bennett

RICH BENNETT, HENRY COUNTY:

Cover cropped and conventional corn-soybean systems: The sixth year of a long term comparison of productivity and profitability. Comparison of high magnesium and low magnesium lime: long term effects on soil tilth, productivity and profitability in cash grain production. (First year of a multiple year trial.)

Measuring nitrogen benefits of hairy vetch cover crop for corn production, and evaluation of a portable soil nitrate test kit. (Alan Sundermeier, Henry County Extension, is assisting Rich with this trial, which is being supported by a Producer Grant to Rich from the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.) Managing winter rye cover crops for weed control in soybeans: herbicide burn down vs. disk incorporation.

DAVID MEYER, PUTNAM COUNTY:

Effects of Promin, a commercial gypsum-based soil amendment, on soil tilth, production and profitability. (First year of a multiple year trial.)

JOHN CRABILL, HANCOCK COUNTY:

Building up soil calcium levels: multiple year effects on soil tilth, productivity and profitability in cash grain production. (First year)

CHRISTOPHER WERRONEN, LAKE COUNTY:

Comparison of a roto-spader to deep tillage for vegetable bed preparation. (This project is supported by a Producer Grant from the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.)

TED AND MOLLY BARTLETT, GEAUGA COUNTY:

Non-chemical weed controls for broccoli production: comparing productivity and profitability of black plastic mulch and cover crop mulch. (Mardy Townsend, Geauga County Extension Vegetable Specialist, is assisting the Bartletts with this trial, with support from the O.S.U. Extension Vegetable Team. The same trial is being performed at the Stratford Ecological Center Demonstration Farm in Delaware County.)

Productivity and profitability of staked versus unstaked tomatoes with a winter rye/hairy vetch mulch.

BRUCE BERRY, WAYNE COUNTY:

Effect of rock phosphate on forage quality in pasture.

BEN & BRUCE BALTZY, HOLMES COUNTY:

Evaluation of the pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) for corn N management. (Three rates will be compared: the PSNT rate, one higher rate and one lower rate.)

CHARLIE ESELGROTH, ROSS COUNTY:

Evaluation of the pre-side dress soil nitrate test, and a comparison of N fertilizer rates for corn following red clover hay in a 4-year rotation.

Managing hairy vetch cover crops for corn N fertility: herbicide burn down vs. disk incorporation. (This is a preliminary, unreplicated test before conducting a fully replicated and randomized trial.)

From Ed Z

The Sustainable Agriculture Network Announces a New Brochure:

Profitable DAIRY OPTIONS *Grazing *Marketing *Nutrient Management Research and Innovations from the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program and Agriculture in Concert with the Environment (ACE), a joint USDA/U.S. EPA program.

This free brochure on sustainable dairy production draws information from SARE/ACE projects throughout the US, and presents the findings in an attractive and easy-to-read format. It focuses on rotational grazing, innovative marketing strategies, and nutrient management techniques for sustainable dairy production.

Profitable DAIRY OPTIONS highlights 'pasture-user support groups', the benefits of manures and composts, the pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT), alternative silage crops, and other profitable options. The brochure includes valuable information for feedlot-oriented systems, and has applicability for any livestock system. A list of resources for dairy producers is included.

The information in this brochure will be of use to producers, consultants, Extension agents, and anyone involved in information transfer to livestock producers.

The free brochure, Profitable DAIRY OPTIONS, is available in single copies or in quantity from:

Andy Clark, Ph.D.
SAN Coordinator
c/o AFSIC, Room 304
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351
PH: 301-504-6425
FAX: 301-504-6409
san@nal.usda.gov

BOOKS•VIDEOS•SOFTWARE•INTERNET INFO

NEW VIDEO ON MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL

Here's a useful product from a SARE grant.

"Vegetable Farmers and Their Weed Control Machines," is a new video showing how successful farmers use these tools. From sweeps and rotary hoes to flame weeders and home-made tools, this high-quality, 75-minute video demonstrates many of the available cultivation implements. It also explains some of the weed control strategies being used effectively by New England vegetable farmers.

While the video focuses on New England growers, the information presented is applicable to smaller-scale vegetable farms in many parts of the country. It shows how the implements work and how producers adapt their use for production goals and site-specific conditions.

Nine farmers (direct market, wholesale, conventional, and organic growers) in three states were visited to get their opinions on various pieces of equipment and how to use them.

The video features plenty of clear, up-close footage of various pieces of machinery in use on a variety of vegetable crops. Tools demonstrated include: Buddingh basket and finger weeders, Lely tine weeders, rotary hoes, rolling cultivars, Bezzerides implements, various sweeps, as well as backpack and tractor-mounted flame weeders. Some home-made tools for cultivating the edges of plastic mulch are also described.

The nine growers explain how the different pieces of equipment work and describe how the various tools fit into their overall weed control strategy. The producers also tell some of the pros and cons of specific equipment.

The video is available for $10 including postage. Make checks payable to UVM Extension and include a note with your name and mailing address. Send to: UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 590 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05405-0059.

Beth Holtzman
Northeast Region
SARE/ACE Programs
Phone: 802-656-0554
Fax: 802-656-4656
e-mail: bholtzma@moose.uvm.edu

GRAZE for Windows,

A free beef-forage selective grazing research model software package is now available for downloading through the World Wide Web at the following URL address: http://www.agen.ufl.edu. This the home page for the Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department at the University of Florida. The route to follow is "Software for PC's", "Graze ", and click on either the Windows or DOS title for downloading.

The Graze for Windows model provides a framework for integrating the knowledge and experiences of producers, animal scientists, plant scientists, soil scientists, economists, engineers and others interested in some facet of the animal grazing system.

THE INDUSTRIAL REORGANIZATION OF U.S. AGRICULTURE:

An Overview and Background Report. $5.50. Examines the industrial reorganization of U.S. agriculture, and how that reorganization affects elements of sustainability. Wallace Institute, 9200 Edmonston Road, #117, Greenbelt, MD 20770, 301-441-8777.

SHARED LEADERSHIP, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: IFO'S NEW PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

A team of OSU researchers and extension agents, representatives from IFO and OEFFA, a farmer and an agricultural student attended a 3 day workshop in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin on June 24-26. The workshop was funded by the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Training Program under provision of the USDA/ SARE-Chapter 3 budget. The theme of the Wisconsin workshop: Shared Leadership, Shared Responsibility reinforced earlier themes on partnering and collaborative learning that shaped Chapter 3 workshops in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois attended by IFO members over the past two years.

The purpose of the Shared Leadership workshop was to further enable teams of university researchers, extension agents, nonprofit and farmer organizations, and others associated with sustainable agriculture to work together to strengthen partnerships. Teams from throughout the 12-state region shared their experiences in setting up state sustainable agriculture research and education programs. Some of the more intriguing ideas presented by state teams included:

Michigan's annual on-farm research report gets wide distribution as an insert in Farm Bureau magazine; Missouri's grassroots advocates lobbied on behalf of on-farm research and netted a $50,000 grant from the EPA and a $69,000 grant from the legislature; and Minnesota's sustainable agriculture community succeeded in forming a 12 group consortium that oversees their land grant university's sustainable agriculture program. Ohio's team reported the following accomplishments: the joint Ohio and West Virginia HRM training at Malabar; the joint sponsorship of the 1996 Farm & Market Tour Series; OSU Extension's quarterly Sustainable Ag Newsletter, Team Directory, SUSAG electronic mailing list and calendar of events; SARE funding of a Whole Farm

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photo courtesy of Michael Coté

Ohio Sustainable Agriculture Team (left to right)
Peter Bierman, Piketon Res.& Ed. Center; Mark Bennett, OSU Extension, Knox Co.; Linda Lee, Locust Grove Farms; Sean McGovern, OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association); Michael Coté, OSU/Ag Education; Mike Hogan, OSU Extension, Carroll County.

RESOURCES • RESOURCES

RESOURCES – *ATTRA Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas- and its' newsletter -ATTRA news*

A key source of information for rural people, "dedicated to helping communities and individuals find sustainable ways of improving the quality of life, using skills and resources at hand". If you need answers to almost any question, they will provide them. Frame your question succinctly-"What's currently available in small scale implements for draft animals?"- and in 2 or 3 weeks you'll receive a package of data, info and sources that will fill in all the blanks. You can reach them toll free at 1-800-346-9140 or by mail at Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, P.O. Box 3657 Fayetteville, Arkansas 72702

THE ECOLOGICAL RISKS OF *ENGINEERED CROPS*

1996. $16.95. Jane Rissler and Margaret Mellon review biotechnology research in plants, they propose a framework for assessing ecological risks from transgenic crops and recommend incorporating assessment into the regulatory system. MIT Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02142, 617-625-8569.

RISKY BUSINESS: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE,

1996 (Video). $35. An introduction to agricultural biotechnology that examines its risks and purported benefits and interviews scientists, businesspeople and activists who discuss concerns about biotechnology's impacts on health, environment and sustainable agriculture. Moving Images Video Project, 2408 East Valley Street, Seattle, WA 98112.

movingimages@igc.apc.org.

U.S. Pesticide Use Soars

From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

U.S. pesticide use reached an all-time high of more than 1.2 billion pounds in 1995, over twice as much as was used 30 years ago (540 million pounds in 1964).

According to NRDC (National Resources Defense Council), these all-time highs in pesticide use have occurred despite the assertion by the pesticide industry that it has adopted "stewardship" and "integrated pest management" programs that result in smarter and lower pesticide use.

The EPA draft document includes 1994 and 1995 figures for 30 chemicals. 1.23 billion pounds of pesticides were applied in 1994, representing a jump of more than 100 million pounds from the previous year. In 1995, 1.25 billion pounds were applied.

EPA figures include only active ingredients, and not the so-called "inert" ingredients such as petroleum, benzene and other toxic compounds. These "inert" chemicals can comprise over 50% of the volume of formulated pesticides. EPA figures exclude non-conventional pesticide uses, such as wood preservatives and disinfectants, which the EPA has previously estimated at more than one billion pounds per year. Taking these additional uses into consideration, the total U.S. pesticide use in 1994-1995 is estimated at more than 2.2 to 2.3 billion pounds per year.

In 1995, use of pesticides was at an all-time high in agricultural, industrial, commercial and government applications. Expenditures on pesticides also hit a new high of $10.4 billion in 1995. More herbicides were used than during any previous two-year period; more insecticides were used than any previous year since 1981-82; and fungicide use was the highest yet recorded and was over double the amount used in 1979.

Pesticides whose use in the U.S. increased considerably, according to the draft EPA document, included methyl bromide, metam sodium, dichloropropene, acetochlor, sulfur and petroleum oils. Those pesticides

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PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE SAYS... U.S. AG MUST BE SUSTAINABLE

"U.S. agriculture must be sustainable if the national goal of sustainable development is to be achieved," and should be supported with research that integrates "agricultural productivity and profitability with environmental stewardship," according to the report of the Sustainable Agriculture Task Force of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. Chartered by the President's Council in 1994, the Task Force was charged with "articulating the key social, economic, and environmental challenges to be met in achieving a sustainable U.S. agriculture." In its report, the Task Force defines four goals for sustainable agriculture, and nine recommendations on how to achieve those goals.

For a copy of the Sustainable Agriculture Task Force Report, contact Adelia Bakiel at the USDA, 202-720-2456.

Source: "Alternative Agriculture News," May 1996, Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture.

...IFO'S NEW PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

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Planning training grant; and the upcoming tour to the Michigan Kellogg Biological Station and Rich Bennett's cover crop research plots in Napoleon, Ohio scheduled for October 9-11. Ohio's team also presented workshops by Mark Bennett and Mike Hogan on "Developing a Statewide Sustainable Agriculture Team" and by Michael Coté on "Using Study Circles for Sustainable Agriculture Training". These and other workshop presentations are included in an extensive handbook collection of training materials for sustainable agriculture and leadership development. Copies of presentations and other training materials from all of the above workshops are available upon request from IFO.

Given all these training efforts the reader might be wondering: Where are these training efforts heading? What's beyond the training of the trainers? How will all the farmers who were unable to participate in training be reached? Who are the new groups the team should reach out to? Will the Ohio Sustainable Agriculture Team create a lasting partnership between OSU, IFO, OEFFA, NRCS and others working for sustainable agriculture, and will it lead to the development of a genuine shared vision and strategic plan for sustaining Ohio's agriculture?

Whatever your thoughts or questions are regarding these efforts please share them with IFO members. IFO needs your ideas and involvement if it's going to be an effective partner in building an Ohio Sustainable Agriculture. There will be challenges in sustaining effective team efforts in sustainable agricultural research and education programs when project funds become scarce, and a partnership among organizations that share resources stands a far better chance of sustaining program and training efforts. While building a partnership with others in sustainable agriculture presents IFO with new challenges it also affords us a greater opportunity to share leadership and responsibility in showing how Ohio agriculture can be more profitable, environmentally sound, and supportive of rural communities and farm families.

by Michael Coté, Ag Education, OSU.

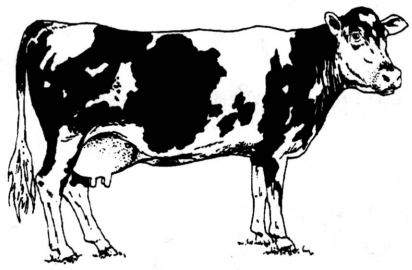
MORE RESOURCES

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF DIVERSITY IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. $24 (Society members first copy $20). Edited by Richard Olson and Charles Francis (CSAS Director [Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln]) and Stephen Kaffka. Thirteen authors discuss how knowledge of diversity could be applied to the development of more viable and profitable ag systems. American Society of Agronomy, Book Order Dept., 677 S. Segoe Rd, Madison, WI 53711-1086, or fax order to 608-273-2021 (add $2 for "bill me" orders).

PROCEEDINGS: 1996 North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference. $10. Topics at this Feb. conference focused on business management, farmers' markets, roadside stands and PYO, niche markets, consumers, and agri-tourism. DMC-Proceedings, CCE Tompkins Co., 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850.

PROCEEDINGS: Environmental Enhancement through Agriculture Conference. $20 (payable to Trustees of Tufts College). Collection of 36 papers from Nov. 1995 conference offers numerous examples of ag systems that benefit the environment in diverse ways: increasing wildlife habitat and biodiversity; protecting water quality in streams and estuaries; producing substitutes for nonrenewable energy sources; offering aesthetically appealing landscapes; and bringing urban residents into closer contact with food production and the land. Center for Agriculture, Food and Environment, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.

BIOLOGICALLY BASED TECHNOLOGIES FOR PEST CONTROL. $14. Report by Office of Technology Assessment (S/N 052-003-01449-1). New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, 202-512-1800.



PROFITABLE DAIRY OPTIONS. Free. 8-page brochure focuses on rotational grazing, innovative marketing strategies, and nutrient management techniques for sustainable dairy production. Sustainable Agriculture Network, Room 304, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351, 301-504-6426, e-mail: san@nalusda.gov.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DIRECTORY OF EXPERTISE (3rd edition). $18.95. Sustainable Agriculture Publications, Hills Bldg, Room 12, U. of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, 802-656-0471.

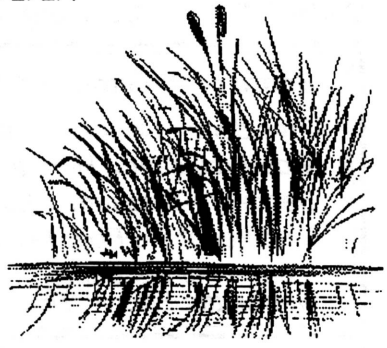
FROM A TO Z IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: A Curriculum Directory for Grades K-12. $3. Includes 100+ resources and contacts for educating youth about sustainable ag, food and fiber systems, natural resources, and their connections to our communities. Center for Sustainable Agriculture, U. of Vermont, 590 Main St., Burlington, VT 05405-0059, 802-656-0827.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CIVILIZATION (85 min. video). $29.95 + $4 s&h. Allan Savory discusses the decision-making process on which Holistic Resource Management is based. The role of biodiversity is highlighted. Contains excellent film footage. Center for Holistic Resource Management, PO Box 7128, Albuquerque, NM 87194, 800-654-3619, e-mail: chrm@igc.apc.org

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) INFORMATION PACKAGE. Free (in U.S. only). Describes key components and pest control tools of IPM systems and examines economic, social and environmental factors influencing IPM. Emphasizes IPM as compatible with sustainable ag because it depends on healthy soils and managed crop diversity, and because it requires agroecological knowledge to implement. Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, PO Box 3657, Fayetteville, AR 72702, 501-442-9824, e-mail: askattra@ncatfyv.uark.edu

THE GENE EXCHANGE: A Public Voice on Biotechnology and Agriculture, Volume 6, Number 2&3, December 1995. Free. Quarterly publication monitors policy, industry and research regarding biotechnology worldwide. December issue reviews recent and scheduled releases of genetically engineered agricultural products and includes company names, traits altered, purpose of modifications and sources of new genes. Union of Concerned Scientists Agriculture and Biotechnology Program, 1616 P Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202-332-0900, email: jrissler@ucs.usa.org

MAKING IT ON THE FARM: Increasing Sustainability through Value-added Processing and Marketing. $12.00 (payable to Southern SAWG). Compiled from interviews with successful southern farmer/entrepreneurs. Southern Sustainable Ag Working Group, PO Box 324, Elkins, AR 72727.



U.S. Pesticide Use Soars

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whose use dropped substantially included alachlor and cyanazine.

According to the new data, worldwide conventional pesticide use also hit an all time high of 4.7 billion pounds in 1995, with the U.S. share at 27% -- a higher percentage than in recent years, according to previously released EPA data.

Source: NRDC and U.S. PIRG press release, May 28, 1996; NRDC Summary of EPA Data, May 1996.

Contact: Erik Olson, NRDC, 1350 NY Ave NW #200, Washington DC 20005; phone (202) 783-7800; fax (202) 638-4937. Carolyn Hartmann, U.S. PIRG, 218 D Street SE, Washington DC 20003; phone (202) 546-9707; fax (202) 546-2461.

REPLACEMENT FOR THE NEW FARM MAGAZINE IS IN THE WORKS FOR 1997

Recently, IFO was approached by the Committee for Sustainable Farm Publishing requesting a one-time use of IFO's mailing list to reach potential subscribers for a charter issue of a magazine designed to replace The New Farm, which Rodale Press terminated in 1995. The IFO Board met on June 11 and decided that they would not loan or sell the IFO mailing list until it can poll its membership as to what is appropriate use of the mailing list.

Individuals who are interested in seeing this charter issue can get on a list of potential subscribers by sending their mailing address to Christopher Shirley, Coordinator for the Committee for Sustainable Farm Publishing, via regular mail at 609 S. Front Street, Allentown, PA 18103, or e-mail (CDShirley@aol.com), or you can call Chris in the morning (610-791-9683).

RESOURCES - *continued*

EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR ORGANIC FARMERS

Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture (MESA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the global advancement of sustainable farming practices. It sponsors a farmer-to-farmer exchange program between the U.S. and participating countries, giving young farmers interested in organic agriculture opportunities for training in other parts of the world. Participants can: be host farmers, be exchange farmers, join MESA's advisory board, make tax-deductible donations, and/or help spread the word about MESA. For more information contact Lauren Augusta, MESA, 5337 College Ave, Suite 508, Oakland, CA 94618, 510-654-8858.

Photos in this issue courtesy of Michael Coté

INNOVATIVE FARMERS of OHIO is a grassroots farmers network dedicated to promoting, through research, education and community building activities, an agriculture that preserves and strengthens the economic, social and environmental well-being of Ohio's farms, farm families and rural communities, and protects and improves the health and productivity of Ohio's land and waterways.

ifo *INNOVATIVE FARMERS of OHIO*
...membership application form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

Do you receive a significant part of your income directly from farming activities?

☐ Yes — (this entitles you to a Regular Membership with voting privileges)

☐ No — (this entitles you to an Associate Membership without voting privileges)

What type of farming operation do you have?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Membership dues are $15.00/year or $10.00/year for students. Please make check or money order payable to "Innovative Farmers of Ohio" and mail to:

Innovative Farmers of Ohio
3083 Liberty Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Cut or copy this form and send it with your membership dues