

DACUM Research Chart for Improvement and Innovation on the Organic Farm

Produced for



Cornell University
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

DACUM Panel

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
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**Key
Responsibilities**

TASKS

A. Identify Farm Vision	A.1 Network with farmers (e.g., visit farms, attend conferences)	A.2 Identify quality of life requirements (e.g., stress, amount of work, income)	A.3 Identify personal/farm values and goals	A.4 Articulate farm vision (e.g., words, pictures)
B. Define Farm System	B.1 Map the farm (e.g., topography, soils, infrastructure)	B.2 Identify resource inventory (e.g., water, soil, equipment)	B.3 Develop whole farm plan (e.g., crop, livestock, ecosystem)	B.4 Determine means of production (e.g., tillage, pest control, labor)
C. Observe Farm System	C.1 Walk the farm	C.2 Record observations and events (e.g., frost, rainfall, insect damage, weed pressure)	C.3 Observe patterns (e.g., plant health, animal behavior)	C.4 Perform routine testings (e.g., soil, tissue, fecal)
D. Evaluate Farm System	D.1 Review annual farm schedule/calendar	D.2 Analyze financials (e.g., cash flow, sales records, enterprise budget)	D.3 Analyze records (e.g., soil tests, journal notes, photos)	D.4 Establish benchmarks (e.g., yields, efficiency, sales/customers)
	D.10 Prioritize problems/opportunities			
E. Design Actions	E.1 Investigate subject (e.g., literature review, consult experts, studies)	E.2 Research solutions/options	E.3 Assess risks and rewards	E.4 Choose best course of action
F. Implement Actions	F.1 Collect resources (e.g., on-site, purchase)	F.2 Allocate necessary time	F.3 Assign roles and duties	F.4 Execute plan
G. Evaluate Actions	G.1 Observe end result	G.2 Analyze data	G.3 Reassess risks and rewards	G.4 Invite feedback from collaborators and experts

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A.5 Identify target market (e.g., retail, wholesale, CSA)	A.6 Write business plan			
B.5 Determine farm interactions (e.g., social, political, environmental)				
C.5 Collect outside observations (e.g., online data, other farmers, experts)	C.6 Taste your own food	C.7 Invite feedback from labor (e.g., self, others)	C.8 Invite feedback from customers	C.9 Assess equipment (e.g., , safety, functionality, efficacy)
D.5 Review successes and failures	D.6 Review means of production (e.g., tillage, pest control, labor)	D.7 Identify important trends/changes (e.g., social, political, environmental)	D.8 Consult experts (e.g., other farmers, extension, financial)	D.9 Identify problems and opportunities
E.5 Design trial/course of action	E.6 Identify success criteria			
F.5 Collect data	F.6 Monitor results	F.7 Fine tune actions	F.8 Review success criteria	
G.5 Determine next course of action (e.g., implement, redesign, abandon)	G.6 Share results with peers			