

Organic v Conventional Farming?

Organic and conventional farming are two different approaches to agriculture, each with distinct methods and principles.

A. What is Organic Farming:

1. ****Pesticides and Fertilizers****: Uses natural pesticides and fertilizers such as compost, manure, and bone meal. Synthetic chemicals and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are avoided. Here at Tuba farm we encourage creating fertilizers using natural farm and household waste such as weeds, plant scrapes, fish and meat scrapes, sulfur, copper, peroxide, and farm made natural insecticide soaps. We also encourage using OMRI approved bacteria/fungi, clays powders and minerals to manage pests.
2. ****Soil Management****: Focuses on maintaining healthy soil through crop rotation, green manure, and composting to enhance soil fertility and biodiversity. Here at Tuba farm we encourage using indigenous microbes, natural yeast and bacteria, farming worms And collecting worm castings, brewing compost tea, soil drenching beneficial nematodes and microorganisms, cover cropping, no till farming with minerals such as sulfur/ lime/ wood ash/ gypsum amendments, and raised beds using natural free layers of organic material that breakdown and feed the soil overtime.
3. ****Animal Welfare****: Animals are raised in more natural conditions with access to the outdoors and organic feed. At Tuba farm we encourage free ranging when safe and feed our livestock organic feed and scraps. We raise them with love and kindness.
4. ****Sustainability****: Emphasizes sustainable practices that minimize environmental impact, conserve water, and reduce pollution. AT Tuba Farm we encourage no till farming, cover cropping, rain catchments and water wells, solar energy, drop irrigation and ollas.
5. ****Certification****: Must meet specific standards set by certifying bodies, like the USDA Organic certification in the United States to be consider Certified Organic and Real Organic. At Tuba we have not yet received certification; however, our produce are “naturally grown using organic practices, with no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.” These phrases convey the methods used without violating organic certification rules.

B. What is Conventional Farming?

1. ****Pesticides and Fertilizers****: Relies on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers to maximize crop yields and manage pests and weeds.
2. ****Soil Management****: Often uses monoculture practices, which can deplete soil nutrients and increase dependency on chemical inputs.
3. ****Animal Welfare****: Animals may be raised in confined conditions with the use of antibiotics and growth hormones.
4. ****Efficiency****: Focuses on high productivity and efficiency to meet large-scale food production demands.
5. ****Technology****: Incorporates advanced technologies, such as genetically modified crops and mechanized equipment, to increase efficiency and yields.

Both farming methods have their pros and cons. At Tuba Farm we believe Organic farming is better because of its environmental benefits and perceived health advantages, while conventional farming is useful for its ability to produce large quantities of food at a lower cost. On average organic food is worth about \$ 3.22 per pound while conventional produce is \$1.75 per pound; as such, conventional produce sales still exceed organic.

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