

NOFA-NY Mentoring Program
1995 Annual Report
Submitted to SARE by Kay Magilavy

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I. Goals of the Program:

- A. To establish a coherent farmer-to-farmer network which would pair experienced organic growers with those new to farming or those transitioning to organic production.
- B. To develop an outline for incorporating low-input resource management practices into the farm plan.
- C. To directly assist program participants by providing them with:
 - a. Coursework in the elements of low-input resource management
 - b. Guidance on developing these elements into a farm plan specific to their site and cropping practices
 - c. Visit from the mentor farmer to the farm site at two crucial times:
 - (1) Before the growing season, when the farm plan will be written
 - (2) During the growing season, for assessment of the progress of the plan and help in addressing unforeseen problems.

II. Farm update:

- A. No on-farm activity has been scheduled at this date

III. Participants/Cooperators:

Participant	Type of Production /Role	Experience Level	Mentor
Bokaer-Smith, John & Jennifer	Vegetable field crops	1st year certified	Lou Johns & Robin Ostfeld
Denner, Willie & Kenney, Claudia	Vegetable field crops	1st year certified	Martin & Christa Stiosek
Deppe, Carl & Diana	Vegetable field crops	1st year certified	Doug & Catherine Bowne
Gormley, Damian	Vegetable field crops	2nd year farming, not certified	Doug Jones
Hoffman, Joel	Dairy, feed crops, possible greenhouse	Many years farming, transitioning to organic	Anne & Eric Nordell
Koch, Paul & Julie	Vegetable field crops	New farmers, not certified	Carol & Bob Stull
McCarty, Stu & Thor, Lynn	Vegetable market garden	3rd year certified	Carol & Bob Stull

Orr, Tish & Ed	Vegetable field crops	New farmers, not certified	Steve Gilman & Sherrie Mickel
Smith, Steve & Barb	Dairy	Purchased going organic dairy	Kevin Engelbert
Karl North & Elizabeth Henderson	Workshop co-coordinators		
Caleb Williams	Workshop presenter		

IV. Project progress:

- A. Publicized program (see attachments) to attract participants
- B. Interviewed prospective participants and selected nine
- C. Matched participants to mentors
- D. Set location (Preble, NY) and date (January 14, 1996) for workshop
- E. Selected workshop coordinators

V. Findings & accomplishments

- A. Most activity is upcoming

VI. Site information & Economic findings:

- A. None

VII. New ideas/Next step

- A. Although the program has not yet begun, there is widespread enthusiasm for the concept among participants and others

VIII. Continued use & Speaking to other producers:

- A. Most activity is upcoming

IX. Outreach (see attached) & documentation

- A. Most activity is upcoming