



**BUILDING A BRIGHTER
FOOD FUTURE**

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
+
FARMER PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSITION





OUR MISSION

Our mission to make our food system and agriculture biologically sound and socially equitable requires us to find practical ways to tackle big challenges.

Today, we look for opportunities to bring everyone to the table – farmers, processors, government agencies, nonprofits, businesses and consumers – to find the best solutions to meet challenges head on.

ON A QUEST FOR CONSERVATION

Oregon Tilth and NRCS work together to support farmers pursuing conservation.



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



57 WEBINARS
with **12,364**
PARTICIPANTS
from 2011-2019



122 TRAININGS
FOR **2,882**
NRCS STAFF
in 31 states



78 WORKSHOPS
TO **4,432**
INDIVIDUALS
on conservation & NRCS





PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**Beginning
Farmer &
Rancher
Education**

**Farm
Profitability
& Viability**

**Applied
Organic
Research,
Education
Extension**

**Organic
Needs
Assessment**

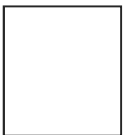


**Oregon State University
Center for Small Farms &
Community Food Systems**



NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

National
Survey



Self-identified
As Transitional



615 farmers





FARMER CATEGORIES

100% CERTIFIED

TRANSITIONING

SPLIT

NOT PURSUING



Oregon State
University



OBSTACLES RANKED



Oregon State
University

	Full Sample	100% Certified	Transi- tioning	Split	Not Pursuing
Farm Level					
Weed management					
Pest or disease control					
Learning process					
Managing soil fertility					
Reduced yields					
Planning crop rotations					
Local & Regional Infrastructure					
Cost of organic inputs					
Availability of organic inputs					
Availability of labor					
Cost of labor					
Access to technical expertise					
Availability of organic processing facilities					
Marketplace					
Obtaining organic price premiums					
Obtaining adequate prices during transition					
Obtaining organic price information					
Finding buyers for organic products					
Administrative/Policy					
Cost of organic certification					
Recordkeeping requirements of organic certification					
Totals					



OBSTACLES RANKED



**Oregon State
University**

	Full Sample	100% Certified	Transi- tioning	Split	Not Pursuing
Farm Level					
Weed management	X	X	X	X	X
Pest or disease control		X		X	X
Learning process	X	X	X	X	X
Managing soil fertility	X	X	X	X	X
Reduced yields				X	
Planning crop rotations					
Local & Regional Infrastructure					
Cost of organic inputs	X	X	X	X	X
Availability of organic inputs	X	X		X	X
Availability of labor		X			
Cost of labor				X	X
Access to technical expertise				X	
Availability of organic processing facilities					X
Marketplace					
Obtaining organic price premiums	X		X	X	X
Obtaining adequate prices during transition			X		
Obtaining organic price information	X		X	X	
Finding buyers for organic products					
Administrative/Policy					
Cost of organic certification	X	X	X	X	X
Recordkeeping requirements of organic certification	X	X	X	X	X
Totals	9	9	9	13	11
Orange = Major; Yellow = Minor; Grey = No Clear Trend; Green = Not an Obstacle.					



OBSTACLES RANKED



**Oregon State
University**

	Full Sample	100% Certified	Transi- tioning	Split	Not Pursuing
Farm Level					
Weed management	X	X	X	X	X
Pest or disease control		X		X	X
Learning process	X	X	X	X	X
Managing soil fertility	X	X	X	X	X
Reduced yields				X	
Planning crop rotations					
Local & Regional Infrastructure					
Cost of organic inputs	X	X	X	X	X
Availability of organic inputs	X	X		X	X
Availability of labor		X			
Cost of labor				X	X
Access to technical expertise				X	
Availability of organic processing facilities					X
Marketplace					
Obtaining organic price premiums	X		X	X	X
Obtaining adequate prices during transition			X		
Obtaining organic price information	X		X	X	
Finding buyers for organic products					
Administrative/Policy					
Cost of organic certification	X	X	X	X	X
Recordkeeping requirements of organic certification	X	X	X	X	X
Totals	9	9	9	13	11
Orange = Major; Yellow = Minor; Grey = No Clear Trend; Green = Not an Obstacle.					



RESOURCES RANKED



Resource	100% Certified	Trans.	Split	Not Pursui ng
Information on organic pest, disease, and weed management	1	1	1	1
Information on soil health management for organic farms	2	2	3	2
Information on effective organic crop rotations	3	7	5	5
Information on organic markets	4	3	2	3
Information on organic crop varieties	5	8	6	6
Market development for organic products	6	4	4	4
Organic and/or transition crop enterprise budget templates	7	9	10	9
Financial planning tools for transitioning to organic	8	5	8	8
Advance contracts from buyers during transition	9	10	7	7
Certified transition label	10	6	9	10



Oregon State
University



RECOMMENDATIONS

1

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN
OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

2

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
RECOGNIZES BENEFITS TO
PEOPLE + PLANET

3

MARKET DATA
IDENTIFIES ECONOMIC
VALUE + OPPORTUNITIES

Chris Jenkins & Elizabeth Miller
Minto Island Growers
Salem, Oregon
32 acres organic
Organic vegetables, berries,
flowers





Double J Jerseys
Jon & Ross Bansen + family
Monmouth, Oregon
600 acres organic
Organic dairy cows, milk, hay,
forage crops





Cheryl & Jimmy Stewart
Stewart Farms dba
Columbia Gorge Organics
Hood River, Oregon
174 acres organic
Organic tree fruit & juice smoothies



Eric Nelson
Nelson Grade Organics
Pendleton, Oregon
880 acres organic
Organic alfalfa, barley, wheat



QUESTIONS?

WWW.TILTH.ORG

