

Organic farming

Organic farming is a term often used for production of food and other animal and plant products without the use of synthetic chemicals. Many people regard organic food as highly superior to other commercial foods because they are more "pure" food -- that is, organic foods have fewer residual added chemicals in them than do other commercial foods. On the average, studies have shown this to be true, although some cases have arisen where products labeled organic have had high levels of agricultural chemicals in them due to unintentional contamination or fraud. Some critics also point out organic food can be less safe than non-organic food (conservation issues in particular).

The environmental benefits of organic farming are a subject of some debate. Obviously, organic farms do not result in the release of chemical pesticides and herbicides into the environment, nor the leaching of artificial fertilizer. However, proponents of conventional farming argue that organic farms are less productive, requiring more land to be used (and damaged) to produce the same amount of food. Furthermore, some organic farming practices are claimed to do more damage than conventional practices - for instance, the use of Roundup - a herbicide, to prepare soil for planting is claimed to reduce soil damage compared to using a plough. Another argument against organic farming is that while it works acceptably at present because pests are kept under control in surrounding conventional farms and thus do not spread into organic farms, if it became universal the "islands" they operate on would disappear and pests would become a severe issue.

Organic food products are also produced without added artificial chemicals such as artificial food colorings.

CREDIT: http://encyclopedia.kids.net.au/page/or/Organic_farming