

Cacek, Terry. 1984. "Organic Farming: The Other Conservation Farming System," Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, vol. 39, no. 6, Nov.-Dec.

Compares 'organic farming' with 'conservation tillage' and then looks at both related to 'conventional farming.'

Concludes that organic farming (uses USDA 1980 definition) systems produce conservation benefits extending to soils, water, nutrients, energy and wildlife, and are economically and agronomically competitive with conventional and conservation tillage systems.

Coleman, Eliot. 1985. "Toward a New McDonald's Farm," in Sustainable Agriculture and Integrated Farming Systems, Thomas C. Edens, Cynthia Fridgen, and Susan L. Battenfield, (eds.), Michigan State University Press, East Lansing.

The major difference between "organic" (biologically based) and modern (chemically based) production is the basis on which the two systems operate, in particular -- organic agriculture deals with information input rather than product input solutions to the dynamics of food production. The author attempts to "package" the complexity of an organic system so that farmers can adopt this way of farming, stressing the need for management ability with this system.

In a non-herbicide system, cultivation is the key. The author tries to avoid cultivating as much as possible by transplanting, which gets the plant ahead of the weeds.

Coleman, Eliot W. 1983. "Impediments to Adoption of an Ecological System of Agriculture," in Agriculture, Change, and Human Values, R. Haynes and R. Lanier (eds.), University of Florida, Gainesville, vol. 2.

Poses the question as to why there has not been more rapid adoption of some of the alternative production technologies recommended in the widely distributed USDA (1980) Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming, and suggests the following.

Identifies as the key impediment to the adoption of an ecological system of agriculture the dichotomy that exists between a symptom treatment mentality, so much a part of our everyday existence, and a cause correction approach inherent in an ecological system of agriculture. Our reliance on a symptom treatment approach leaves us without an alternative if our palliatives prove inadequate, while a cause correction approach emphasizes the well-being of the plant and requires a major shift in attitude. (Points to extensive published literature which documents the potential for controlling pest problems through attention to the growing conditions and nutrient status of the plant.)

Philosophical and psychological impediments, such as our deep-seated prejudice to understanding and cooperating with nature, are more substantive and harder to change than the impediments that follow.