

Rep. Daschle -- research emphasis has been on conventional farming

Kinney -- in FY 82 funding for research related to organic farming was under \$1 million. USDA has a couple hundred scientists in the chemical field; one person half-time (Youngberg) answering inquiries into organic farming.

Garth Youngberg (then USDA organic farming coordinator) on conclusions drawn in USDA 1980 report on organic farming:

- ♦ organic farming can be practiced on a relatively large-scale farm (i.e. 600-800 acres)
- ♦ modern organic farming is quite different from the agricultural system of the 1920s and 30s; it is not a regression to an earlier or more primitive form of agriculture
- ♦ there is a wide spectrum of practices and ideologies within "organic" agriculture (some 30,000 to 40,000 farms in the U.S.); not all organic farmers are 'purists'

Per Youngberg, organic farming is a total system, involving crop rotations, fertility, and a total management approach -- stresses the lack of information (e.g. Extension Service materials) on organic practices

Congressman Weaver, chairman of the subcommittee -- stresses that it is not and should not be a fight, chemical vs. organic -- the emphasis should be on techniques that work. Notes the lack of commercial sponsorship for organic farming techniques.

Daniel Colacicco, ERS economist -- with increase in organic farming most of the nitrogen would have to come from legumes due to the unavailability of organic wastes; less capital is required for organic agriculture

Papendick, as chair of the USDA Study Team (1980) his main responsibility was to look at the impact of organic farming on erosion control and environmental pollution. Found good soil erosion control resulting in reduced sediment and pesticide run-off. Also found that organic farming is conservative in the use of chemical fertilizers and that the kinds of materials used are less subject to leaching.

Re: conservation tillage -- given present technologies, no-till is not an option for organic farmers since it requires more pesticides to control weeds, insects, and even diseases.