Principles for Transitioning to Organic Farming: e-Learning Materials and Decision Case Studies for Educators



### Our Team - University of MN

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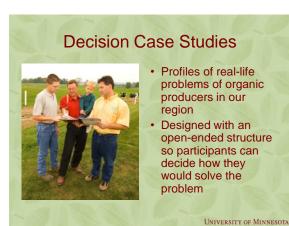


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| Module Topics                  |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| What is Organic?               | Alternative Crop Production |
| Resources for Transition       | Soil Health                 |
| Certification / Record Keeping | Soil Fertility              |
| History of Organic             | Weed Biology                |
| Crop Rotation                  | Weed Management             |
| First Steps in Transition      | Avoiding GMO Contamination  |
| Row Crop Production            | Cover Crops                 |
| Small Grains Production        | Economics of New Crops      |
| Forage Crop Production         | Marketing                   |



### **Decision Case Structure**

- Background of farmers
- Dilemma
- Possible solutions
- Appendices more information
- Questions for discussion
- Teaching Notes for instructors
- Epilogue
- Example later



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### **Decision Cases – Completed**

- 1. Problems using cover crops
- Organic farming as new career
  Deciding to convert a
- profitable apple orchard to organic
- 4. Using a new rotation to reduce tillage
- 5. Managing fire blight organically
- 6. Controlling Canada thistle
- 7. Determining whether to

use plastic mulch for weed control in an organic vegetable operation

- 8. Deciding whether to convert a grass-fed beef operation to organic
- 9. Managing soybean aphid in organic soybean
- 10. An organic grower struggling to provide enough nutrients to his crops
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### Decision Cases – In Progress

- A conventional field crop producer not far from retirement deciding whether to convert to organic
- 2. Enterprise diversification on an organic grain farm
- 3. Difficulties in transitioning rented land
- 4. Several more are planned

## Our Target Audience

Transitioning farmers

Undergraduates



Materials will be used by Extension Educators, University and college instructors, crop advisors, and regional organizations

# • Listening sessions

- Undergraduate classroom activities
- Transitioning workshops
- Website with project materials



### Contact Info

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