

The Organic and Sustainable Agriculture History Collection includes:

- **Roger Blobaum Papers** — historic documents from over 40 years in the organic agriculture movement
- **Cissy Bowman Papers** — papers of a pioneer organic farmer and leader in Indiana organic certification and standards
- **FairShare CSA Coalition Records** — records of a community supported agriculture organization that supports and connects farmers and eaters
- **Loni Kemp Papers** — papers of a leader in sustainable agriculture policy in Minnesota and the Midwest
- **F.H. King Papers** — includes data collected for his landmark book “Farmers of Forty Centuries” and material on soil research and agricultural policy
- **Jim Riddle and Joyce Ford Papers** — collection focused on organic inspection, organic certification, and the National Organic Standards Board
- **Anne Schwartz Papers** — papers of a Washington State organic farmer focusing on organic and sustainable agriculture in the Northwest and nationwide including trade issues relating to organics
- **Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Publications** — Periodicals and other published materials relating to organic and sustainable agriculture separated from other collections in the Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Collection.

This is your opportunity to be a part of the history of organic and sustainable agriculture.

If you have correspondence, committee files, memoranda, meeting minutes, position papers, press releases, reports, project files, financial records, or other papers and files documenting your work in organic and sustainable agriculture, either as an individual or as part of an organization, please contact us today to discuss a possible donation of your papers and files.

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Organic and Sustainable Agriculture History Collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society



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The Wisconsin Historical Society's Library-Archives has a long history of collecting personal papers, organizational records, and publications documenting important social change movements in the United States, as well as materials documenting various aspects of agriculture in Wisconsin and the United States including agricultural policy, farm implements, and cooperatives. The Wisconsin Historical Society's ongoing initiative to collect materials documenting organic and sustainable agriculture is a natural outgrowth of these previous collecting activities. The Ceres Trust has provided financial support for this effort.

Key collecting areas within organic and sustainable agriculture that the Historical Society wants to document include:

- Leaders and pioneers in the organic and sustainable agriculture movement
- Pioneering national organic agriculture organizations
- Organizations that promote and assist organic agriculture
- Organic certification organizations and organic standards development work
- Companies and organizations that work with inputs for organic agriculture production
- Individual organic farmers and urban farming enterprises
- Local and alternative agricultural marketing and distribution including direct sales, restaurants using organic ingredients, CSAs, farmers' markets, and food cooperatives

A Brief Timeline of Organic History

1911 F.H. King wrote "Farmers of Forty Centuries," a classic book that describes how people in China farmed the same fields for 4000 years without destroying fertility.

1940 Ehrenfried Pfeiffer left Germany and settled in Pennsylvania where he established a model farm where many early organic farmers learned about biodynamic agriculture.

1942 J.I. Rodale established "Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine," which emphasized natural methods of building and maintaining healthy soil.

1943 Lady Eve Balfour published "The Living Soil," which first compared the efficacy of organic and conventional farming; she later founded the Soil Association, the first group to advocate organic farming.

1971 "Organic Gardening and Farming Magazine" led an unsuccessful attempt to establish the country's first organic certification program and later supported the efforts of the grassroots group California Certified Organic Farmers.

1979 California passed a law establishing a legal standard for organic production, the first of more than 25 state organic laws and programs over the next 10 years.

1980 Major USDA report published recommending research, extension, and other initiatives to support organic farming; sent to 20,000 farmers.

1981 Remaining copies of the 1980 report are destroyed, which began a 10-year period of hostility to organic farming at the USDA.

1990 Despite strong USDA opposition, the Organic Foods Production Act was passed by Congress and signed into law.

1992 The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was appointed and held public input meetings around the country.

1996 The NOSB submitted a plan to USDA that had support in the organic community.

1997 USDA proposed a rule that ignored or overturned many NOSB recommendations; there was an outpouring of negative feedback in response.

2001 The USDA adopted a final rule that made the federal government responsible for guaranteeing organic integrity, accrediting organic certifiers, and developing and enforcing standards; it was implemented in 2002.