

**Agronomic Issues**  
**Questions on the Issue: Conventional Crops vs. Organic Crops**  
**For Event Use Only**

**Suggested but not necessarily the only answers are printed in light gray**

Which of the four provided articles did you find to be the most authoritative?

Mayo Clinic article entitled 'Nutrition and healthy eating'  
Mythbusting 101 by Christine Wilcox, University of Hawaii, Science blogger

Which of the four provided articles did you find to be the most one-sided?

13 Facts about 'Organic' Foods that will Shock You from [http: mobilewnd.com](http://mobilewnd.com) a conservative politically right publication or "Organic Farming vs. Conventional Farming" article from an organic producer as both are non-substantiated

Which type of agricultural cropping—organic or conventional crops—has the best chance of feeding the world's population under today's economic conditions and why in your opinion?

Conventional crops that can be adapted to large scale production schemes have the best chance at feeding the world's population. Organic crops require very intensive labor and management inputs. Conventional crop yield potential and adaptation to a wide range of suboptimum soil and climate conditions have a wider ecological fit. Organic cropping due to its dependence on organic nutrient inputs (composts and waste streams) have been shown to impact water quality due to phosphorus accumulation—although even conventional crops have this problem where managers do not adequately monitor soil nutrient levels.

Is there a place for both types of crops (organic and conventional) in the world and what reasons would you put forth to support your view?

Organic crops with higher pricing can support small local farmers, especially newbees  
Organic crops can provide a more profitable entry point for want-to-be farmers  
Increasing the number of potential farmers can help expand the political base of agriculture  
Organic crops as a component of all crops can satisfy the need of those who want fewer pesticides or GMO's in their food supply

Based on your agronomic knowledge, what FACT in quotes did you find the most inaccurate in the articles you read?

Whatever answer they wish to give as long as they can defend it.

