



FARMING SYSTEMS TRIAL TURNS 35

The Farming Systems Trial (FST)® at Rodale Institute is America's longest running, side-by-side comparison of organic and conventional agriculture. Started in 1981, Bob Rodale designed the FST to assist farmers transitioning from conventional to organic agriculture. Now, after 35 years, scientific data from the FST has established that organic management practices match or outperform conventional systems. FST continues to innovate, introducing no-till systems and GMO corn and soybeans to the conventional systems. A tremendous amount of data is measured at FST between the systems including yields, soil organic matter content, economics, weeds, water use, energy and emissions.

Deep soil cores collected in 2015 are being analyzed through a new partnership with the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center (C-MASC) at Ohio State University and compared with nutrient density measurements in oats through collaboration with Drexel University and funding from the Chipotle Cultivate Foundation to directly measure the connections between Healthy Soil and Healthy Food.

In 2015, Dr. Emmanuel Omondi joined Rodale Institute as the new Research Director for the Farming Systems Trial. Dr. Omondi grew up on a farm in Kenya and has been involved in sustainable agriculture work since 1992. He holds a B.S. degree in General Agriculture from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agronomy from the University of Wyoming.

Learn more at:
<http://rodaleinstitute.org/our-work/farming-systems-trial/>



RODALE INSTITUTE NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In September 2015, Jeff Moyer was named Executive Director of Rodale Institute. Moyer has worked with Rodale Institute since 1975, most recently as the Farm Director. Working directly with farmers of all backgrounds, Moyer is a renowned voice for the farmer's perspective regarding issues in organic agriculture. He is widely respected for his contributions to Organic No-Till and the design of the No-Till Roller Crimper.

Moyer's achievements include a five-year term on the National Organic Standards Board, board chair for the Seed Farm, a founding member of Pennsylvania Certified Organic and a past board member of the Organic Farming Research Foundation.

PARTNERSHIPS

Pastured Hog Operation

In 2015, thanks to support from Applegate and the Wyncote Foundation, Rodale Institute opened our Organic Hog Facility, a new scalable model for farmers who want to begin similar pastured pork operations. In this innovative facility, we demonstrate how to increase hog production quantity while reducing labor and still maintaining a high quality of life for the animal. Our hogs, all heritage breeds, have 24/7 access to the outdoors, and forage for crops like peas, oats and grasses.

Learn more at:
<http://rodaleinstitute.org/our-work/livestock/organic-hog-facility/>

Medicinal Garden

In 2015, Rodale Institute unveiled a new Medicinal Garden in partnership with homeopathic medicine company Boiron USA. At the garden, flowers and herbs are showcased not just for their beauty, but for their practical use as medicines. Leopard's bane, Garden marigold, Chamomile, St. John's Wort, and many other popular medicinal plants have been placed along the garden's brick walking pathways. The space serves to educate visitors on the natural healing properties of plants.

Learn more at:
<http://rodaleinstitute.org/our-work/gardens/>



National Organic Honey Month

In partnership with Wedderspoon, Rodale Institute named July as National Organic Honey Month. The campaign, promoted largely on social media with #beeaware, celebrated honeybees and their contribution to the food system as pollinators. It also raised awareness around the decline in honeybee populations and the threats they face in the form of toxic agricultural chemicals. Rodale Institute is home to the Honeybee Conservancy. The Honeybee Conservancy promotes healthy beekeeping practices through education and outreach and includes classes in sustainable beekeeping practices.



RESEARCH



United Nations Climate Change Conference COP21

Chief Scientist Dr. Kris Nichols traveled to Paris, France in December to attend COP 21, the United Nations Climate Change conference. There, Dr. Nichols joined the global conversation to educate about the role of soil health in reversing climate change. She gave several presentations on regenerative organic agriculture and its ability to sequester carbon.

Rodale Institute Introduces Master Composters

In October, Rodale Institute graduated fourteen volunteers from its inaugural Master Composter program. This education program was funded by the Environmental Resource Management (ERM) Group Foundation which supports environmental initiatives and activities. The Rodale Institute Master Composters will engage the community through public education and outreach on the benefits of composting, recycling and waste diversion.

Using Organic Practices to Manage Varroa Mites in Honey Bees

A Northeast Integrated Pest Management (NEIPM) grant supported collaborative research between Rodale Institute, Penn State, and University of Maryland to compare organic and conventional management practices on controlling Varroa mites. Varroa mites are speculated to be at least partially responsible for colony collapse disorder.

Water Resource Conservation for Students

Through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Rodale Institute hosted fourth grade students and faculty from the Circle of Season's Charter School, allowing them to learn about water resource conservation. A Lesson Plan was also developed to educate school groups in multiple age ranges about the roles of agriculture in water resource conservation. Highlights of the program included a green roof, rain barrels, riparian buffers, the Water Purification Eco-Center, and no-till organic farming practices.

Integrating Crops and Livestock

Rodale Institute began new research along with Iowa State University and University of Minnesota focusing on integrating livestock into crop rotations for improvements in soil quality, including enhancement of soil organic matter, soil physical condition, and disease suppression. Incorporation of manure and crop residue inputs sequesters carbon in soils, improves soil function and mitigates erosion. A higher forage, rather than grain-based diet, is also beneficial for animal health and producing milk and meat with higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids, and for economic security by reducing nutrient inputs and feed costs.

PROGRAMS



ASC: Community Food Project Grant

Rodale Institute's Agriculture Supported Communities (ASC) received a \$250,000 Community Food Project grant to fund operations and support intern farmer training for three years. ASC is a farm share that works to provide access to fresh, organic produce to food deserts and families with limited access to organic produce. In 2015, 15% of ASC shares were paid for by SNAP (federal food assistance dollars). The grant also included funding for a Head Start Healthy Start program to educate preschoolers about organic food; including classroom gardens, curriculum and a field trip to Rodale Institute.

Organic Allentown: Community Canvas Program

Rodale Institute's Organic Allentown, in addition to operating two organic farmers markets in Allentown's food deserts, partnered with the Lehigh Valley Health Network to start a Community Canvas Program. For the program, Rodale Institute staff gave presentations at six Allentown, PA school assemblies, teaching elementary school students the benefits of organic agriculture. Additionally, Rodale Institute built vertical gardening towers at the schools, and hosted organic cooking competitions to immerse students in a fun, yet educational lesson on growing food.



ORGANIC PIONEER AWARDS

At our 5th annual Rodale Institute Organic Pioneer Awards dinner we recognized the following outstanding individuals:

Research Scientist DR. DON M. HUBER

Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at Purdue University.

Farmers MIKE & TERRA BROWNBACK

Spiral Path Farm, a 255-acre certified organic vegetable farm in Perry, Pennsylvania.

Business AMY'S KITCHEN (RACHEL & ANDY BERLINER)

A privately held, family-owned business since 1987, it is today the nation's leading source of organic and non-GMO convenience food.

Veteran Farmer Training

In 2015 Rodale Institute received funding from Newman's Own Foundation and an anonymous donor from the Lehigh Valley to expand training options for veterans interested in organic agriculture. Thanks to this funding, in addition to our one-year certificate program with Delaware Valley University, Rodale Institute was able to introduce a more flexible, 2-4 month Veteran Farmer Training program.

St. Luke's Rodale Institute Organic Farm

2015 celebrated the second season of the St. Luke's Rodale Institute Organic Farm, one of the only on-site organic farms growing food for staff and patients at a hospital in the U.S. In addition to doubling its acreage and the varieties of produce grown, in 2015 the farm piloted a program to give new moms at St. Luke's Family Birth Center a fresh basket of produce. This complimentary gift reinforced the importance of wholesome nutrition for new moms, as well as supported the mission of the farm—to start employees, patients and community members on the path to wellness by increasing access to organic farm-fresh produce.



LOOKING FORWARD

In 2016, Rodale Institute is poised to increase its impact and organic leadership with:

Regional Resource Centers

In 2016, we will begin to develop Regional Resource Centers, "mini-Rodale Institutes" to serve as local hubs across the country to aid farmers interested in transitioning to organic.



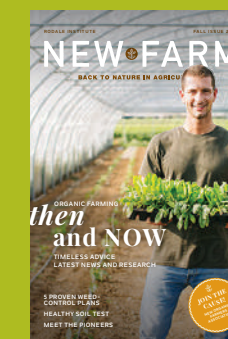
Vegetable Systems Trial

In 2016, we will begin the Vegetable Systems Trial, the produce accompaniment to our renowned Farming Systems Trial—comparing conventional versus organic produce, with a focus on nutritional density and connecting healthy soil and healthy food. The new Research Director for Vegetable Systems Trial is Dr. Andrew Smith.



Farming Systems Trial

New research will examine the ability to 'breed' weed tolerance into crop plants to reduce the necessity for weed control measures. The capacity of organic management practices to not only reduce emissions but also to sequester carbon will be studied further. Also, research on the linkages between soil and human health will continue with oats and potentially be expanded into other grain crops.



New Farm

In 2016, we will relaunch our beloved farmer publication, New Farm, as a robust magazine featuring up-to-date research, news, and education on organic farming. This magazine is provided as a benefit to our Organic Farmers Association members.



Organic Farmers Association

In 2016, we announce our new membership program for organic farmers, the Organic Farmers Association. The goal of this membership is to unite organic farmers to share cutting edge research, industry news, networking, and to act as a united force in issues affecting organic agriculture.

2015 FINANCIALS



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE, GAINS, AND SUPPORT	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Totals	
				2015	2014
Grants	\$190,177	-	-	\$190,177	\$190,108
Federal Awards	\$467,594	-	-	\$467,594	\$299,736
Contributions	\$1,734,364	\$268,000	-	\$2,002,364	\$1,878,113
Education and Store	\$186,073	-	-	\$186,073	\$205,351
Farm Sales	\$259,721	-	-	\$259,721	\$257,757
Other	\$170,355	-	-	\$170,355	\$190,767
Interest and Dividend Income	\$180,036	\$91,459	\$11,554	\$283,049	\$357,774
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (loss) on investments	(\$179,373)	(\$186,868)	(\$38,469)	(\$404,710)	\$262,288
Change in value of beneficial interest in perpetual trust	-	-	(\$31,735)	(\$31,735)	\$31,780
Transfers					
Endowment spending policy distribution	\$293,713	(\$258,544)	(\$35,169)	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions	\$751,381	(\$751,381)	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND SUPPORT	\$4,054,041	(\$837,334)	(\$93,819)	\$3,122,888	\$3,673,674
EXPENSES					
PROGRAM SERVICES					
Strategic Solutions Team	\$2,666,331	-	-	\$2,666,331	\$2,079,497
Communication	\$654,796	-	-	\$654,796	\$702,551
SUPPORTING SERVICES					
Management and General	\$481,281	-	-	\$481,281	\$526,564
Development	\$312,146	-	-	\$312,146	\$245,043
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,114,554	-	-	\$4,114,554	\$3,553,655
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$60,513)	(\$837,334)	(\$93,819)	(\$991,666)	\$120,019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash	\$724,731	\$832,191
Contributions receivable	\$5,593,900	\$5,614,607
Accounts receivable	\$386,572	\$284,091
Inventory	\$41,283	\$52,494
Prepaid Expenses and other assets	\$85,632	\$56,156
Investments	\$11,070,529	\$12,564,489
Note receivable	\$1,030,580	\$1,030,580
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	\$505,045	\$536,780
Property and equipment, net	\$3,214,667	\$2,923,978
TOTAL ASSETS	\$22,652,939	\$23,895,366
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$90,923	\$258,929
Accrued Liabilities	\$75,533	\$158,288
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$166,456	\$417,217
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$9,982,200	\$10,042,713
Temporarily restricted	\$11,328,272	\$12,165,606
Permanently restricted	\$1,176,011	\$1,269,830
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$22,486,483	\$23,478,149
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$22,652,939	\$23,895,366