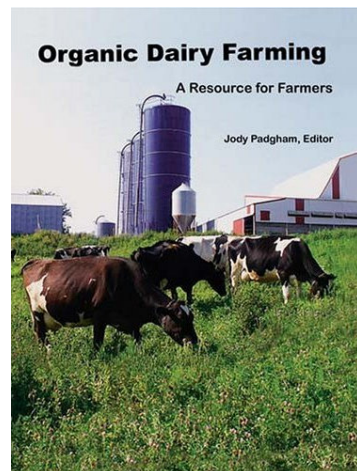
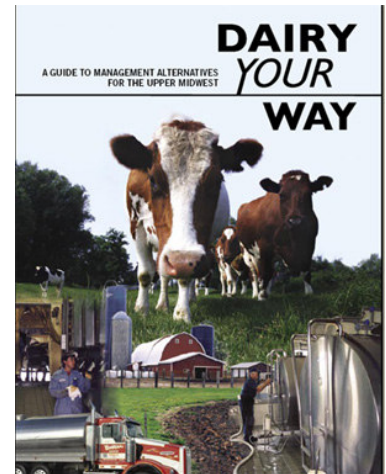


Considering Organic Dairy? Resources for Minnesota

Dairy Your Way

100 pages with chapters about management alternatives (tie stall setups, free stall barns and transitional housing); conventional confinement, grazing and organic management systems; custom heifer-raising and value-added production; milking center design and retrofitting options; dairy farming entry and exit strategies. With producer profiles from three states. Cost: Free

Contact Minnesota Department of Agriculture at (651) 201-6012 for a copy or read online at www.misa.umn.edu (Under "Publications and Programs")



Organic Dairy Farming

192 pages; editor Jody Padgham, with 20 authors. The basics of production and certification for organic dairy. Chapters on herd health, dairy nutrition, milk quality, calves, pasture, soils, and organic crop management. Cost: \$14.95

Order from Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services: Call Cathy at (715) 772-3153

Many other quality organic dairy fact sheets are available on the internet. Search for "organic dairy transition" or "organic dairy conversion."

Midwest Organic Dairy Buyers*

Don't leave your market 'til the last minute! Contact buyers early in your transition process. Some offer technical and financial assistance.

Horizon Organic

Richard Klossner (303) 319-6899

www.horizonorganic.com

Kemps

Ron Boeder (920) 948-8583

Organic Choice

Steve Pechacek (715) 926-4788

www.nextgenerationdairy.com

Organic Valley

Farmer hotline (888) 809-9297

www.farmers.coop

PastureLand Cooperative (SE Minnesota)

(888) 331.9115

www.pastureland.coop

Pride of Main Street

Marv Hinnenkamp (320) 351-8300

pride@mainstreet.com

* To add/remove your company's name from this list, contact Meg Moynihan 651-201-6616

MORE →

Talk to dairy farmers who are already certified and shipping organic milk

Minnesota Organic Farmer Info Exchange: <http://mofie.cfans.umn.edu> or (507) 753-7372
Directory of Minnesota Organic Farms: www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic or (651) 201-6012
Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Association (MODPA) Steve Pechacek, (715) 946-3050

MDI – Minnesota Dairy Initiative

This program is funded by the Minnesota Legislature as a service to all dairy farms located in Minnesota. One MDI team specifically helps dairies investigate alternative enterprises, such as organic, grass-based, on-farm processing, and goat and sheep dairying.

An MDI team can help you decide whether organic production will work for your farm. Services include working with you, your certifier, and processor of choice to do a pre-inspection before the “REAL” inspector arrives to make sure everything is in order. Contact Jeremy Lanctot at the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota for more information: mdi@sfa-mn.org, (320) 980-2333, or www.mndairyinitiative.org.

Learn about organic animal husbandry

ATTRA (National Sustainable Ag Service) offers excellent free materials. www.attra.org/organic.html or call (800) 346-9140.

Minnesota Organic Conference and Trade Show – two days each January, organized by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Six concurrent tracks about organic production and marketing topics. Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic or call 651-201-6012.

Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference and Organic University – offered in La Crosse, WI each spring. Visit www.mosesorganic.org.

How to get your own copy of the Federal Organic Rule

www.ams.usda.gov/nop or call (202) 720-3252

Finding an organic certifier in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture publishes a list, which is at www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic or call (651) 201-6616

Financial information about organic dairy

Real-world organic dairy farm production and profitability information www.finbin.umn.edu Run a “Livestock” report a. Choose “Dairy” under #1, and on “organic” under “4. Farm Characteristics: Special Sort Item to Include.”

Financial assistance during transition

Transition Cost Share: Call your county USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to ask about payments for transitioning crop and/or pasture land to organic as part of the “EQIP” program.

Dairy Business Planning Grants: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture offers Dairy Business Planning Grants to help farmers evaluate the start-up, modernization, expansion, or other significant changes (transition to organic, for example) of a dairy farm. Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/dbgrant.htm or call David at (651) 201-6646.