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*Institute Information*

The Institute for Alternative Agriculture is a nonprofit, tax-exempt research and education organization established in 1983 to encourage and facilitate the adoption of low-cost, resource-conserving and environmentally-sound farming methods. It works closely with producer groups, public research and education institutions, and government agencies in promoting a sustainable agriculture system.

Its programs include providing a national information clearinghouse, serving as a voice for sustainable agriculture in Washington, and developing and implementing research and educational outreach programs. It holds an annual scientific symposium and publishes a monthly newsletter.

The Institute is governed by a grass roots Board of Directors, which includes several commercial-scale organic farmers, and maintains a small professional staff. It is supported by memberships and donations and grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

*Cover Photo*

The cover photo depicts a harvest scene on the Kirschenmann Family Farm in 1988, the worst drought on record in North Dakota. The diverse crop and livestock system on the Kirschenmann farm, using crop rotations, natural soil building and water conservation strategies common to many sustainable systems, yielded an income during this drought year that was 80 percent of normal. Many continuous, mono-cropping conventional farmers in the area never started up their combines.