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Wallace Institute Information

The Henry A. Wallace 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 shows Ms. Jody Ohmacht, a USDA—ARS Research Technician collecting soil samples from the Richard Thompson farm near Boone, IA. An intensive grid sampling was the first step in one of the most comprehensive, inter-agency (USDA and Iowa State University), on-farm evaluations initiated to quantitatively evaluate how alternative (Thompson's) and conventional farming practices are affecting the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of our nation's soils and the crops they produce. Farming system effects on water infiltration, earthworm number and species, and soil aggregation are discussed in this issue. Profile N concentrations, soil-test characteristics, and spatial variability in crop yields are also being evaluated thanks to the cooperation of the landowners and operators (Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. David Snyder, and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snyder).

Photo provided by Dr. D.L. Karlen, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Soil Tilth Laboratory, Ames, IA.