



# Enviromental Benefits of **ORGANIC**

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## ORGANIC PRACTICES PROTECT BEES

Organic farms provide food and nesting sites for pollinators, including honeybees whose pollination services are valued at \$15 billion per year in the United States and \$190 billion worldwide because of their irreplaceable role in global food security. Organic farms are also prohibited from using pesticides that are toxic to bees.



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## ORGANIC MEAT AND DAIRY MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Organic livestock production sequesters carbon through grazing practices. Organic standards require ranchers to graze livestock on organic pasture for at least 120 days per year. Studies show that grazing leads to sequestration of carbon in the soil, particularly under grazing systems that allow animals to graze for precise amounts of time in small pastures.



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## ORGANIC PRACTICES REDUCE EROSION

Soil erosion is a serious threat to food production that organic agriculture prevents. By 2030, widespread soil degradation could endanger food security and, if no action is taken, the United States could run out of topsoil before the end of this century. Organic farms are required to use a crop rotation specifically to reduce soil erosion. By increasing the diversity of crops grown in a rotation, organic farmers increase soil organic matter level, which creates good soil structure that absorbs water and prevents soil from blowing or washing away.



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## ORGANIC CONSERVES WATER

Organic conserves water resources by building soils high in organic matter that can better absorb and store water. In a 4-year trial in Nebraska, organic plots had 30-50% greater soil aggregation and ten times higher water infiltration than non-organic plots. The findings of numerous studies show that organic soils can better use rainwater by absorbing and storing higher amounts of water in the soil, which means there is more water available for plants during dry weather.

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## ORGANIC PRACTICES USE LESS ENERGY

Organic farms usually use less energy for their farming needs compared to non-organic farms. This is because they aren't allowed to use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers that rely heavily on fossil fuels. In the United States, about 40% of energy used to produce crops and livestock is used to manufacture synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. In contrast, organic farms use inputs that require less energy to produce such as composts, animal manures, and cover crops.

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