

Production Practices: Farmers and ranchers reported using a variety of conservation and environmental practices on their certified or exempt operations in 2008. Among the most

popular were the use of green or animal manures and the planting of buffer strips.

Pennsylvania and United States: Production Practices, 2008

Production Practice	PA Number of Farms (number)	U.S. Number of Farms (number)	PA % of Farms (percent)	U.S. % of Farms (percent)
Green or Animal Manures	448	9,454	76.5	65.0
Buffer Strips	373	8,423	63.7	57.9
Water Management Practices	245	7,372	41.8	50.7
Organic Mulch or Compost	231	7,454	39.4	51.3
Select Planting Locations to Avoid Pests	217	5,133	37.0	35.3
Pest-Resistant Varieties	217	4,760	37.0	32.7
Planting to Avoid Cross-Contamination	213	3,768	36.3	25.9
No-Till or Minimum-Till	180	5,542	30.7	38.1
Biological Pest Management	178	4,474	30.4	30.8
Beneficial Insect/Vertebrate Habitat	154	4,619	26.3	31.8
Released Beneficial Organisms	92	2,388	15.7	16.4

Production Expenses: Pennsylvania certified and exempt organic farms incurred production expenses totaling \$169.1 million – or an average of \$293,131 per farm - in 2008. This is higher than the \$77,721 average for all farms in Pennsylvania, as reported in the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

The largest expenses were labor, at \$44.6 million, and feed purchases, at \$35.8 million. Other significant expenses were fertilizer, lime and soil conditioners; and repairs, supplies and maintenance.



Average production expenditures are higher for Pennsylvania organic farms (\$293,131) than for all farms in Pennsylvania (\$77,721).