

STATEMENT OF POSITIVE IMPACT

Social and Economic Impacts

- Growing a grass roots capital base and democratic governance offering farmers and members stable, secure growth and profitability.
- Building a new class of investor capital with a next-generation focus – combining economic returns with social and ecological impacts – we buy and hold unless we sell to the farmer.
- Preserving the health of our food supply, including by requiring genetically intact plant varieties – no GMO seeds are allowed. A two-year study of GM maize NK603 and Roundup showed they caused serious kidney and liver damage and an increased and earlier development of tumours, leading to an increased rate of mortality.^[1] Other research indicates GMO's cause infertility^[2].
- Local and organic farming increases farmers' sales and profits and strengthens job growth in the agricultural community, creating more jobs than conventional agriculture; foundationally developing the long-term infrastructure of healthy local and regional food systems.
- Providing job security via a long-term lease to family farmers (evergreen lease renewals). Strong, sustainable farm families improve local communities by supporting local economies & social services; including community based education.
- First sustainable agriculture Company to establish a democratically governed corporate structure and create a Director of Impact staff position. Iroquois Valley Farms LLC is a leading Certified B Corporation.

Environmental Impacts

- Currently managing 1790 acres of farmland (*766 acres now Certified Organic; all other land in transition*). Today, Organic farms make up only about 1.5% of all U.S. farmland.
- Organic farms have on average 34% more species than non-organic farms. For pollinators such as bees, the difference is greatest, with the number of species 50% higher on organic farms.^[3]
- Organic farms preserve and enhance water quality by avoiding chemical applications that pollute our rivers and streams. According to the EPA, conventional agriculture creates 60% of all water pollution.
- Organic corn and soybean production uses one-third less energy than conventional production.^[4]
- Minimizing topsoil erosion, the living livestock of the soil (mycorrhizal fungi, earthworms and insects). By increasing groundwater recharge and reducing runoff, our practices help retain soil moisture and build, not deplete, soil organic matter. Water volumes in organic systems, according to the Rodale Institute, are 15-20% higher than the conventional alternative.
- Improving soil health and reducing the effect of global warming by sequestering more carbon than conventional farming. Carbon perform many crucial functions, such as, acting as a reservoir of plant nutrients, binding soil particles together, maintaining soil temperature, providing a food source for microbes and influencing water holding capacity and aeration.
- Protecting ecosystem pollinators. Pesticides used in chemical farming kill beneficial insects as well as harmful ones.
- Respecting and encouraging biodiversity in crops, grasses, waterways, soils and wildlife that are all a part of farm ecosystems. Rotating crops, valuing the soil and farmland streams, and managing wildlife are all part of Organic farming.
- 180,000-plus pounds^[5] of dangerous synthetic nitrogen fertilizer and over 3,500 pounds^[6] of toxic chemical pesticides *are not* released into our farmland soils *each year* at current acreage levels. Such toxins wreak havoc on the ecosystem as a whole and today have become so widespread as to be regularly found circulating in prenatal blood.
- Utilizing environmentally sound, humane practices in small-scale, grass-fed and pastured livestock operations.
- Increasing nutrition – studies show that Organic foods are 60% more nutrient-rich than chemically grown foods.

^[1] Séralini GE, Clair E, Mesnage R, et al. Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize. Food and Chemical Toxicology. November 2012; 50(11): 4221-4231.

^[2] Séralini See <http://www.aaemonline.org/gmopost.html>

^[3] "Land-use intensity and the effects of organic farming on biodiversity." A meta-analysis conducted by Oxford University's Department of Plant Sciences. "Our study has shown that organic farming, as an alternative to conventional farming, can yield significant long-term benefits for biodiversity," said Sean Tuck, study lead author.

^[4] According to David Conner, research specialist at Michigan State University. Reported at a Beginning Farming Workshop held at Purdue University, February, 2006.

^[5] http://www.non-gmoreport.com/articles/jun06/organic_farming.php

^[6] Fertilizer usage estimates from: USDA Environmental Research Service. "Chemical Inputs: Fertilizer Use & Markets." Acreage in crop production estimates from: "Major Land Uses Overview." USDA, Economic Research Service, n.d. Web. 03 Apr. 2013. <<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/major-land-uses.aspx#25962>>

^[6] Pesticides applied per acre of US farmland: Rodale Institute News, Sept. 2013



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