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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

Pictured are research plots near Ithaca, New York, in which sweet corn is inter-cropped with white clover living mulch. The clover protects and improves the soil, but must be suppressed to avoid interference and reduced corn yield. Multiple corn row arrangements (foreground) make it easier to impose various mechanical suppression treatments on the clover. Photo provided by Vernon P. Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension Service, West Brattleboro, Vermont.