

Appendix A:

The following four narratives were presented to respondents, along with the following question: “Do any of the passages strike a chord with you, even if you farm conventionally?”

Passage 1 (farm-family legacy): Family farms are the backbone of Indiana. They provide a healthy place to raise a family, instill the values of hard work and dedication, and economic stability. But low commodity prices and high inputs are forcing many farms into economic losses. In turn, many farmers take off-farm jobs to provide income, and family time suffers. Organic farming provides more profit per acre, requires less capital, and uses available labor more efficiently. Farm families can work together on their farm while providing a good living for themselves.

Passage 2 (economic values): As a farmer starting out, it was hard to find land to farm. I can make more money per acre on the limited land that I have access to. I can produce more profit per acre organically than conventionally, although it takes a good bit more labor per acre it is worth it for me. I project 5-10% profit on conventional and 25-35% for organics. Would you rather have 200-bushel corn at \$3.25-3.50 or 150-bushel at \$9.75?

Passage 3 (environmental values): We want to be good stewards of the land and water, and to provide healthy food for our family and community. We see organic farming to be healthier for our family by not being as exposed to harmful substances. We farm organically because of our core values as a business, to leave the land better than we found it.

Passage 4 (Christianity and stewarding Eden): Another reason that I choose to farm organically is because I see it as being a good steward of the land and resources that God has given me. In Leviticus it talks about how the land is only ours for a short while- and we must take care of it. When God created the world He said it was good. God’s goodness is not gone. We can harness the good things that He created such as giving plants the ability to protect themselves and produce a healthy crop when they have the proper nutrients that God designed them to have. Do any of the passages strike a chord with you, even if you farm conventionally?