

WHO WE ARE:

Rodale Institute is the birthplace of organic agriculture in North America. For more than 60 years we have scientifically researched, documented and shared the benefits of organic food for human and environmental health. Set on 333 acres in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, the nonprofit farm offers comprehensive programs serving a range of people, from farmers to educators to community leaders to gardeners to children.

- We are a research farm, conducting carefully monitored experiments to determine the best growing practices for organic agriculture.
- We are an educational institution, sharing our findings with people around the globe.
- We are a certified organic farm, demonstrating that our research results work on a commercial scale, and marketing our organically-grown crops.



HOW WE GOT STARTED:

The origins of the Rodale Institute go back to the work done J.I. Rodale and his personal struggle with his own health. Rodale bought a 63 acre farm in Emmaus, Pennsylvania to grow food organically in 1941 and in 1942 decided to share with the world his experiences and published the *Organic Farming and Gardening Magazine*. He later changed the name to *Organic Gardening*. In 1947 Rodale founded the *Soil and Health Foundation* (known today at the Rodale Institute). J.I. understood even then that healthy soil is the foundation for growing healthy food. In fact, the Rodale Institute's motto, Healthy Soil= Healthy Food=Healthy People®, was first chalked onto a blackboard by J.I. in 1947.

After J.I. died in 1971, his son and daughter-in-law Robert and Ardath Rodale continued to expand on the work he had begun. In 1972 they bought the 333-acre farm on which the Institute now resides and began a new era of research to develop a regenerative system of agriculture that would enhance and improve every aspect of growing and eating food. The Institute's detailed research helped launch today's global organic movement and continues to provide rigorous, credible scientific data to promote organics in mainstream markets in the United States and throughout the world.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON:

Today, Rodale Institute staff continues to advance the original mission with over 40 research projects and programs that build physical links between our soil, our food and our community. Just of a few of our projects include...

The Farming Systems Trial

Our Farming Systems Trial® is the longest-running side-by-side U.S. study comparing conventional chemical agriculture with organic methods.

Compost

We believe that successful organic farming only needs three things: compost, compost, and compost. From large windrows to small bins suitable for urban settings, Rodale Institute works with farmers and gardeners to manage compost effectively.

Honeybee Conservancy

The Honeybee Conservancy at Rodale Institute was started in 2012 in response to the major health problems that have decimated the honeybee population in North America. The Conservancy promotes healthy beekeeping practices through education and outreach.

Heritage Breed Livestock

We've reintroduced small-scale livestock to the farm including chickens, goats and pigs. These are all heritage breeds that have been deemed at-risk by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

The Demonstration Garden

Developed in 1974 to showcase basic sustainable organic gardening methods, the garden is designed to represent various organic gardening techniques and methodologies.

Rodale Institute Garden Store

Our store is located in a historic one-room schoolhouse. We specialize in books, organic plants and compost, along with gardening supplies and diverse offerings from local vendors.

Workshops, Tours & Events

We offer hands-on workshops, tours and events year-round for farmers, gardeners and community members alike. From detailed soil microbiology to raising chickens in your backyard to preserving the harvest to farm tours, we have something for everyone. We even do custom tours for groups.

Rodale Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to pioneering organic farming through research and outreach. For more than sixty years we've been researching the best practices of organic agriculture and sharing our findings with farmers and scientists throughout the world, advocating for policies that support farmers, and educating consumers about how going organic is the healthiest option for people and the planet.

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