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## Organic Farming and the Future for Illinois Wesleyan University

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Poster Presentation P12

**ORGANIC FARMING AND THE FUTURE FOR  
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

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The family farm is dying, while more and more corporations with their giant farms using chemicals, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms pose more of a threat to our health. In a report published in 2000, the FDA found pesticide residues in over sixty percent of fruit, thirty percent of vegetables, and thirty-eight percent of grains tested. Organic farming is actually the truest, oldest form of farming, and is making a comeback. USDA statistics show the consumer demand for organic food is growing twenty percent each year for the past fifteen years, and this is especially evident when looking into the kitchens of colleges and universities. Incorporating organic farming into the way of life of Illinois Wesleyan University students, faculty and staff would uphold their commitment, which is stated in their mission statement, as "committed to diversity, social justice, and environmental sustainability". Not only does organic farming enrich the way individuals eat, but it improves the environment and can bolster the local economy. The movement towards organic farming is happening all around the country, and Illinois Wesleyan University is in a perfect position to join other colleges and universities in the fight for healthier soil, air and water, a healthier plate of food, and a healthier state of mind. Illinois Wesleyan reflects values in the lessons they teach, the buildings they build, the professors they hire. It is now time to reflect that in our dining areas as well.