

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC CROP PRODUCTION (CSES 2012)  
Homework Assignment #1, 15 January 2009

This home work assignment is worth 50 points out of a possible 550 points. It is due 27 January by 5:00 pm.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine the value consumers place upon organic foods versus nonorganic foods. To be able to use a spreadsheet for simple calculations and graphing.

**PROCEDURE:**

- (1) Determine the price for at LEAST 10 organic food products and matching prices for at LEAST 10 similar, nonorganic products. Try to find a wide variety of types of food (for example, do not just choose 10 different types of cereal). You may want to include examples of fresh produce that is in- and out-of-season, canned foods, dried grains (rice, lentils, etc.), dairy, meat, etc. Record (if possible) where the food was produced.
- (2) Convert the price of each product to \$ per ounce. There are 16 ounces in a pound and there are 28 grams in an ounce. For example if a pound of honey cost \$6, this would be \$0.375/ounce ( $6 \div 16 = 0.375$ ).
- (3) Enter the data into an Excel spreadsheet so that the price per ounce of the organic product and the nonorganic product are in columns side by side. Use the web (Mapquest, Google, Yahoo) to find out how far the food traveled from where it was produced to Fayetteville. Enter these values into the spreadsheet for both the organic and nonorganic foods.
- (4) Graph the prices with the nonorganic products on the x-axis and the organic products on the y-axis. Are there any trends in the distance traveled between organic and nonorganic?
- (5) After graphing the data, look carefully at the data and see if there are any general trends in costs or distance traveled that you can note. Write a paragraph describing what you found and what you can conclude. (This should be at least two paragraphs with a total length of less than one page, double spaced typed. You will be graded on explaining what you found, what it means, organization of your paragraphs, and your grammar!).
- (6) Email (lpurcell@uark.edu) me the spreadsheet as an attachment showing your calculations and your graph. Turn in to me in class a hard copy of your paragraph.
- (6) If you have any questions on any of these steps, you must talk to me before Jan 27!