Organic Certification

Qualitative Benefits of the Practice	- Column	+ Column	Your Judgment: Value Per Acre of This Practice on Your Land
	Cost of Implementation and Potential Income Loss	Potential Income Gain and Reduced/Avoided Costs	
Reduced pesticide (insecticide, herbicide, or fungicide) use	Organic certification net costs: $1.60/acre *(See Certification Costs text box)*	Average net return from established organic cropping system with four-year rotation: $470/acre/year (*See Organic Profits text box*)	Potential income gain and costs avoided: +
Reduced synthetic nitrogen fertilizer use	Higher management time, complexity cost, and machinery ownership cost over conventional agriculture: $117/acre *(See Organic Costs text box)*	$8.60/acre/year gain in fertilizer value of soil by saving 4.1 tons/acre/year from soil erosion; cumulative over years (*See Value of Saving Soil text box in Crop Rotation section*)	Potential income loss and costs to pay: -
Manure use benefits of building soil organic matter			Your judgment on value to your farm of qualitative benefits: +
Crop rotation benefits of reduced soil erosion and reduced water runoff		Benefit to society: approximately $20/acre/year gain in water quality value of soil by saving 4.1 tons/acre/year of soil from erosion (*See Value of Saving Soil text box in Crop Rotation section*)	Value to society or environment: +
Guarantees pasture access for dairy cattle			Add up the total net value per acre per year:
Buffer strip requirements generate wildlife habitat		$15.70/acre/year of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur for each 1% of soil organic matter; it takes about a decade of regular manure application to raise the SOM by 1%. (*See Value of Soil Organic Matter textbox in Soil Fertility Management section*)	Multiply by a time frame (5 years? 10 years?)
The numbers in this table are broad estimates, and you should adjust them for your farm's conditions.			Total value over time: