

Helping organic farmers bring value-added to the mix

Farm Made: A Guide to On-Farm Processing for Organic Producers

There are two obvious barriers organic producers face when they consider on-farm processing. The first is psychological. On-farm processing can appear intimidating and beyond reach, on one hand; on the other, it may seem unnecessary to someone who is already “adding value” by raising crops or livestock organically. The second barrier—a more pragmatic one—is the lack of good, producer-friendly information on small-scale organic processing and handling.

With this book, three long-time organic information specialists have created a guide that helps fill the gap in information on organic, on-farm processing.

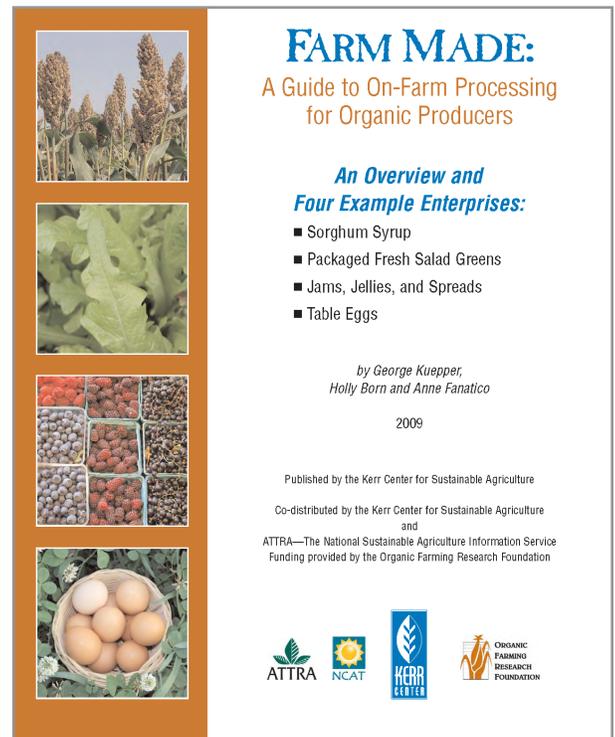
The guide presents four value-added case studies: sorghum syrup, packaged fresh salad greens, jams, jellies and spreads and table eggs. These enterprises were selected for their suitability to on-farm processing, as well as the variety of circumstances, challenges and examples for discussion that are relevant to a host of other possible enterprises. In each of these examples, the basic requirements for production and processing are addressed and followed with specific requirements needed to make the enterprise certified organic.

In Brief:

The Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, utilizing experts in the organic information field, has developed an on-farm value-added processing guide tailored for organic producers. *Farm Made: A Guide to On-Farm Processing for Organic Producers* is available for free from the Kerr Center website.

The authors consulted with organic producers and handlers familiar with the focus enterprises, as well as with university and state professionals and regulatory agencies. They also conducted comprehensive literature searches—an extensive resource list is provided.

Written and compiled by by George Kuepper, Holly Born and Anne Fanatico. The 50 page guide is free and can be downloaded from the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture website: <http://www.kerrcenter.com/publications/FarmMadeReport09.pdf>



The Farm Made guide, available from the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture.



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