

1. Harvested
2. crops
3. cultivation
4. environment
5. supply
6. Consumer

7. weeds
8. conventional
9. herbicides
10. agriculture
11. sprayers
12. growing

13. organic farming
14. soil
15. livelihood
16. fertilizer
17. farmland

**COMPLETE WITH THE WORDS FROM ABOVE**

FORT BENTON, MONTAN. It's been weeks since he \_\_\_\_\_ his farm's grains, and though Casey Bailey's fields are mostly bare, something is \_\_\_\_\_ below.

He kneels on the ground, covered by a thin layer of straw as far as the eye can see, and scratches the surface to reveal worms and even a spider racing for cover.

"The \_\_\_\_\_ organisms, there's like a billion in a teaspoon," he says. Bailey's \_\_\_\_\_ depends on the farm, so the worms are a sign that one of his experiments is paying off.

Owner of a formerly traditional farm, he decided to change what he calls the farm's "rigid, chemical-based" practices, to \_\_\_\_\_ methods. It was mainly due to a need to protect the \_\_\_\_\_ and yield more sustainable and healthier \_\_\_\_\_.

It hasn't been an easy switch. He has learned through trial and error because—despite the growth of organic \_\_\_\_\_—there isn't a mentor or a playbook to follow. On a \_\_\_\_\_ farm, he can hire \_\_\_\_\_ to come out and spray our whole farm within a day, and then come and spread the nutrients, the \_\_\_\_\_. He can't do that with organic.

It's not a matter of just turning off the chemical sprayers: Farmers must learn to manage soil nutrients without fertilizer and get rid of \_\_\_\_\_ and insects without \_\_\_\_\_ and insecticides. It's a steep learning curve. One must experiment with different \_\_\_\_\_ strategies.

It all sounds great, but the organic market needs to address a fundamental gap: \_\_\_\_\_ demand for organic food is growing steadily, but the percentage of organic \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S. is only inching up.

With demand outpacing domestic \_\_\_\_\_, the country imported more than \$2 billion in organic food last year.