

Impacts of Fracking on Organic Farmers and the Public



**Ohio Ecological Food
and Farm Association**

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sustainable agriculture since 1979*

Most gas drilling, underground injection, and extraction activities are exempt from the federal requirements of the Safe Water Drinking Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act. As a result, the public is dependent upon regulation and oversight from state governments. The level of oversight and enforcement is highly variable and organic and sustainable farmers are particularly vulnerable to contamination.

The body that oversees the National Organic Program (NOP) is the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The exemptions of fracking from federal law mean the NOSB and NOP cannot rely on oversight from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the water quality and integrity of organic farming operations in oil and gas regions and areas that accept out-of-state fracking waste, such as Ohio.

Organic farmers rely on clean air, clean water, and healthy soil to grow clean food. This industrial activity can undermine the integrity of those farms and the certification label. Accidents associated with fracking and the growth of related infrastructure warrants its placement on the NOSB agenda. The NOSB should show leadership and take meaningful action to protect farmers.

If you are an organic farmer or you purchase and support organic food, please consider sending a comment to the National Organic Standards Board asking them to:

- Request the disclosure of chemicals used in fracking;
- Call on the EPA to ban the practice of using contaminated frack water for livestock and irrigation, and
- Adopt an Organic Agriculture Impact Mitigation Plan as a resource for farms that face impending pipeline infrastructure.

Additionally, contact your state representative and ask them to:

- Establish clear setbacks from fracking activity, injection wells, and organic farmland.



Please contact OEFFA today to learn more about how you can help protect the integrity of organic farms, organic food, and community health. Go to <http://policy.oeffa.org/fracking>, call (614) 421-2022 Ext. 208, or email policy@oeffa.org.

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