

What is the Impact on Organic Crop Acreage of Choosing Organic Beer ?

	Organic Grain	Organic Hops	
Pounds/acre at Harvest	2,251	2,000	
Pounds/acre after drying	1,643	1,440	
Pounds/Batch Beer	11,200	200	
Finished Cases Beer/batch	2,300	2,300	
Pounds/case	4.87	0.09	
			TOTAL ACRE
acres required per / case	0.0030	0.000060	0.0030
acres required per / gallon	0.0013	0.000027	0.0013

	Acres	Square Feet	Football Field
One 6-pack/week	0.039	1,712	4%
One 15.5 keg/week	1.083	47,180	105%

CONCLUSIONS

- 1 Each consumer who chooses a 6-pack/week of organic beer, causes a farmer to convert 1,700 square feet of farmland from conventional to organic agriculture. That is the size of many suburban homes, or twice an average apartment.
- 2 Each restaurant tap handle serving 1 keg of organic beer/week causes a farmer to convert 1 football field of farmland from conventional to organic agriculture. That is a real impact.

Notes:

- 1 Organic Barley is 1.25% of the US Total barley acreage on 578 Farms, with 47,22 acres planted today.
- 2 Organic yields of barley do trail current "conventional" production efficiency approximately 70%. Over time "conventional" farmings' crop yields increased due to better methods, indicating that today's organic farmers will close the gap over time, approximately 33 years.
Source:
<http://www.biofortified.org/2011/02/todays-organic-yesterdays-yields/>
- 3 Barley yield, 67 bushels/acre
- 4 One bushel = 48 pounds.
- 5 Malting water loss approximately 27%, hop water loss approximately 28%.
- 6 Hop yield/acre varies widely, but since the impact of hops is minimal, an average 2,000 lbs/acre was used in this analysis.

