

**Ecofeminism and the Organic Farming Movement:  
Toward Building Sustainable Community**

Thesis

by

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### *Abstract*

This thesis results from the question, "How can the ideology and practice of ecofeminism contribute to the growth and effectiveness of organizations that work toward understanding and working with the environment?" An examination of ecofeminism within the organic farm movement provides a practical context in which the preceding question can be explored.

This thesis argues that the organic farm movement is a place in which ecofeminist practice and ideology exists. A critical analysis of ecofeminism shows that ecofeminist involvement within the organic farm movement is important to the growth and effectiveness of the ecofeminist movement. This thesis claims that ecofeminism can be seen in three different aspects of the organic farm movement: 1) the act of organic farming, 2) the ideology of organic farmers and 3) the organizing of organic farmers to form an "organic community." This thesis asserts that community-building within the organic farm movement is an essential part of both the ecofeminist and organic farm movements. Ecofeminism is inherently a communal activity. Without community ecofeminism can not work towards its goal of transforming the dominant world view of the maximization of profits to an alternative world view of sustainability. Ecofeminism does not have a community of its own which affects the economic market; therefore, ecofeminists' work in organizing an "organic community" that participates in the economic market is vital to their work towards their goal of sustainability. Ecofeminists use the notion of nature as an organic whole as a unifying force on ideological and practical levels in their attempt to build community. I assign positive value to social change brought about by ecofeminists' notions of community and nature.