

## Hippie-esque, \"granola-crunching\" bohemians

Dennis Coday | Jan. 25, 2010 NCR Today

Here's something to look into:

### [The ethics of organic farming](#) [1]

Do organic farms, and the organic food industry in general, represent a distinctive social and environmental approach to agriculture? Do they incorporate a unique set of ecological and spiritual values, or merely reflect, on a smaller scale, the same dog-eat-dog, "survival of the fittest" approach of their behemoth agribusiness cousins?

These are questions that will be seeded Jan. 28-31 at the 29th annual Guelph Organics Conference ([www.guelphorganicconf.ca](http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca)), one of the largest such gatherings in North America. There, CEOs of multi-million-dollar organic food companies will share food and reflection with small-scale local organic farmers in a harvesting of concerns and ideas, as the organic food business, once perceived as a hippie-esque pastime for "granola-crunching" bohemians, has grown into a burgeoning multi-billion-dollar industry.

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#### **Links:**

[1] <http://www.thestar.com/opinion/article/754167--the-ethics-of-organic-farming>