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#### Institute Information

The Institute for Alternative Agriculture is a nonprofit, tax-exempt research and education organization established in 1983 to encourage and facilitate the adoption of low-cost, resource-conserving and environmentally-sound farming methods. It works closely with producer groups, public research and education institutions, and government agencies in promoting a sustainable agriculture system.

Its programs include providing a national information clearinghouse, serving as a voice for sustainable agriculture in Washington, and developing and implementing research and educational outreach programs. It holds an annual scientific symposium and publishes a monthly newsletter.

The Institute is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors, which includes several commercial-scale organic farmers, and maintains a small professional staff. It is supported by memberships and donations and grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

#### Coner

The cover painting by Bobbi Tull Pratte, a Virginia artist, is intended to portray the hierarchial nature of ecological organization. Ecological interactions occur all the way from the level of the individual organism (e.g., the frog) up to the complex interrelation between agroecosystems and other ecosystems in the landscape (e.g., farm and city). The emphasis on interactions at all ecological levels forms the underlying theme for papers in this volume.