Work Cited

WBCSD/IUCN. “Agricultural Ecosystems, Facts and Trends.” *World Business Council for Sustainable Development.* 2008. Retrieved from http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/agriculturalecosystems\_2.pdf.

This study was put together by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, a global association of corporations working towards sustainable development. It provides context for the importance of aquaponics by explaining the harsh inefficiencies of the modern agriculture. The study begins by explaining the world’s rapidly increasing population, including an increasing urban population and a decreasing rural population. It goes on to explain the environmental strain that current forms of agriculture are producing. As there are more and more people needing food, and the methods of agriculture are more and more destructive, the need for change is inevitable. Aquaponic food production is the perfect solution to these problems, as it provides a method of producing both fresh produce and a rich protein source on the same land. That’s how this paper ties in well with the other sources, as it provides background setting up the promise of aquaponics.

Diver, S. “Aquaponics- Integration of Hydroponics with Aquaculture.” *National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.* 2006. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.org/mediawiki/files/2/28/Hydroponics_with_Aquaculture.pdf>.

This paper was published by the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service and written by Steve Driver, an Agriculture specialist with the USDA-funded NCAT organization. It explores the benefits of aquaponics of traditional forms of agriculture, such as the fact that the waste of one biological system serves as the nutrients for another. It goes on to explain why aquaponics are attractive to hydroponic farmers and fish farmers, as it’s a natural fertilizer for hydroponic produce growers and a bio-filtration method for fish farmers dealing with large quantities of contaminated water. This source ties in well with the Takle/Hofstrand paper as it also addresses the issues of modern agriculture, while presenting a possible solution (aquaponics).

Rakocy, J. Bailey, D. Shultz, C. Thoman, E. "Update on Tilapia and Vegetable Production in the UVI Aquaponic System” University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station. 2004. Retrieved from <http://ag.arizona.edu/azaqua/ista/ista6/ista6web/pdf/676>.

This paper, published by a collection of professors from the University of the Virgin Islands, describes an aquaponics system similar to the one in place at Continental Organics, but with a few fundamental differences. This system is designed to produce tilapia, like the Continental system, except Continental has also began the cultivation of Salmon, a fairly novel concept in the aquaponics world. The scientists describe experimental trials growing basil in their system, which is one of the main products at Continental. This group, however, also experimented with large-scale okra growth, as well as the introduction of snails into the ecosystem. Overall, this paper provides an interesting contrast to my visit to Continental Organics Aquaponics farm, as well as a very detailed description of a successful large-scale operation.