



2014 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE OBJECTIVES

2014 Regional Stewardship Challenge

Key Point 1 ***Principals of Sustainable Agriculture***

- a. Define sustainable agriculture and know the three pillars and indicators of these farming systems
- b. Explain the economic, social and environmental implications of traditional versus sustainable agriculture practices
- c. Know the meaning of food security and recognize its three pillars

Key Point 2 ***Sustainable Agriculture Practices that Lessen Impacts to Natural Systems***

- a. Comprehend farming practices that build soil health such as composting, crop rotations, cover crops, conservation tillage and management, and intensive grazing systems
- b. Recognize best management practices that reduce water use and improve water quality such as conservation tillage, cover crops, plant selection, precision agriculture, water re-use and sub-surface drip irrigation
- c. Detail ways farmers can reduce their reliance on fossil fuels by increasing farm efficiency and using alternative fuels
- d. Identify integrated pest management and biological pest control techniques used to prevent insect pest, disease and weed problems
- e. Grasp the role pollinators' play in farming and ways farmers can enhance pollinator habitat
- f. Describe organic agriculture as an example of a sustainable agriculture system and its growth since the late 1990s. Give specifics on why it is sustainable and how it might not be.
- g. Cite ways Sustainable Agriculture may be able to mitigate climate change

Key Point 3 ***Local and Regional Food Systems***

- a. Illustrate the ways farmers market their food locally and regionally
- b. Understand the meaning of CSA's, food hubs, farmers markets and farm to school
- c. Realize the importance of local and regional foods systems to sustainable agriculture