

SUSTAIN

What is It?

Why is It Important?

Who Does It?



ABILITY

Recommended for grades 6-8



SUSTAINABILITY AND AGRICULTURE

The world as we know it is changing at a rapid pace. The population is growing, climate is changing, and resources are being tested. As we move into the future, necessities such as food, water and energy are some of our biggest concerns. To meet this growing demand, it is vital that we strive to preserve our land and resources for future generations. U.S. farmers and ranchers are at the forefront of this effort. Each day, they take pride in protecting our natural resources by implementing sustainable farming practices.

What is Sustainable Farming?

Sustainable farming is a conscious effort by farmers to grow crops and raise livestock in a manner that conserves resources, such as land and water, while maximizing output. Sustainability results in quality food today, while at the same time preserving and even improving natural resources for future generations.

How Do Farmers Create Sustainable Farms?

- 1. Environmentally Friendly Practices.** Crop farmers today utilize a practice known as “precision farming,” which incorporates technology to use less water, produce fewer carbon emissions, use less fuel, and minimize soil erosion.
- 2. Science and Technology.** Farming has become one of the most high-tech industries out there. Many farmers are early adopters of technology including satellites, GPS technologies, computer software, drones and mobile apps! Advances in science have resulted in crops that are more resistant to disease, require fewer pesticides, and grow a healthier product.
- 3. Livestock Practices.** Farmers who raise livestock also have a vested interest in implementing sustainability on their operation. Practices, including rotational grazing and manure management, allow farmers to raise quality livestock, while respecting the integrity of our natural resources.

A Changing Population

The world, as they say, is a changin’. The population of the world and the United States have both grown substantially over the last two centuries. At the same time population centers have shifted from farms to cities, leaving a small percentage of the population to grow the food we all need to survive.

Written by: Eric Veile

Designed by: Susan Ferber, FerberDesign

A complex black and white maze with a single path highlighted in a thick black line. The path starts at the top left, winds through the maze, and ends at the bottom right. The maze is composed of many small, interconnected paths and dead ends, creating a challenging puzzle. The highlighted path is the only one that is thicker than the others, making it stand out. The path starts at the top left, goes down, then right, then down again, and continues to wind through the maze, eventually reaching the bottom right corner. The path is a single continuous line that starts and ends at the same point, forming a closed loop. The path is a single continuous line that starts and ends at the same point, forming a closed loop. The path is a single continuous line that starts and ends at the same point, forming a closed loop.

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Produced by: Imprint Publishing
Written by: Eric Veile
Designed by: Susan Ferber, FerberDesign

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