

Indicators of Sustainable Agriculture

Profitability

- Generates profits over the long-term
- Maximizes farmer/rancher control over crops and prices
- Supports a family at a standard of living that includes health care, education, and vacations
- Minimizes reliance on government subsidies
- Has a succession plan. Succession plan means have a plan for who will operate the farm after the current ownership.

Environmental Stewardship

- Builds and maintains soil organic carbon to level appropriate for soil and climate
- Prevents soil erosion
- Balances nutrient inputs and outputs
- Maintains clean water
- Maximizes water conservation
- Minimizes dependence on non-renewable resource fuels and purchased production inputs
- Minimizes use of toxic substances
- Uses integrated pest management practices
- Maximizes crop rotation
- Encourages diversity of plant varieties and/or livestock breeds
- Encourages diversity of plants and animals within the landscape
- Minimizes land under agricultural production
- Minimizes air pollution problems such as odors, dust, and greenhouse gasses
- Minimizes solid waste generation
- Optimizes the management and use of on-farm resources
- Protects and renews soil fertility

Quality of life for farmers, ranchers, farm workers, and their community

- Allows time for family, hobbies, and/or community participation
- Provides safe, nutritious food, fiber, and/or biomass energy
- Treats farm workers well
- Treats animal humanely
- Increases the surrounding communities economic and civic well being i.e. provides the capacity for the community to support local schools, houses of worship, or other community institutions
- Contributes to the scenic beauty of community
- Contributes to farming/ranching being seen as respected professions
- Encourages involvement of the next generation