Dialog on Sustainability, July 21, 2012, Kansas State University
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Sustainable Agriculture

The three pillars of sustainable agriculture are profit over the long term, stewardship of our nation’s land, air, and water, and quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and their communities. Sustainable agriculture aims to meet food and environmental needs of people now, without compromising the ability of people who come after us to meet their own food and environment needs. This poster illustrates some of the ways that's done.

Ecological Insect and Weed Management

Grazing

To maintain a grazing system, livestock owners have to find a balance between livestock needs and resources of the land. To increase the amount of forage, high quality pastures are needed. An adequate number of quality, productive grazing animals is necessary for successful grazing management. Grazing management strategies include: rotational grazing, adequate plant diversity and species richness, and the right number of stock. This is a management intensive form of agriculture that is important for maintaining productive soils and landscapes.

A Whole Farm Approach

A whole farm approach is a holistic form of agriculture that promotes the well-being of people, plants, and animals. It involves taking a holistic view of a farm’s resources and using them efficiently and sustainably. This approach requires farmers to think about their entire farm system, rather than focusing on individual crops or livestock. It involves integrating various components of the farm, such as crops, livestock, and natural resources, to create a balanced and sustainable system.

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