

## 240 / Sustainable Agriculture

1. Agriculture provides society numerous benefits including, but not limited to food security, a safe and healthy food supply, environmental benefits and community stability. It is important to remember that agriculture needs the flexibility to alter cropping patterns and practices to meet the demands of operating in an open marketplace where our competition comes from farmers worldwide. When considering sustainable agriculture, there is only one constant and that is agriculture is only sustainable when it is profitable.
2. Sustainable agriculture should recognize the benefits of accepted management practices that American agriculture currently employs, such as Integrated Pest Management. Sustainable agriculture should be flexible enough to fit America's diverse climates, cropping patterns, land use standards, and regulatory requirements. Regulations should not limit agricultural practices without strong scientific and economic justification. Sustainable agriculture should rely on measurable results and focus on adaptive management for continual improvements rather than a rigid set of practices.
3. We support scientific research and education that encourages all participants in the agricultural industry to produce, process and distribute safe food, feed, fiber and fuel in a manner that is economically viable and enhances the quality of life for present and future generations.
4. We support methods of farming that result in:
  - 4.1. A profit for the farm operator;
  - 4.2. A producer striving to show continuous improvement in his/her environmental performance; and
  - 4.3. An adequate supply of high quality safe food, feed, fiber and fuel.
5. We are keenly aware that the means to accomplish these ends may vary from farm operation to farm operation and that no single method of farming will work with every operator.
6. We support:
  - 6.1. Research aimed at reducing overall inputs needed to sustain a profitable farming operation; and
  - 6.2. Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of improving the efficiency of inputs.
7. We oppose:
  - 7.1. Any attempt to mandate low input methods of farming; and
  - 7.2. Requiring low input methods as a condition of participation in government farm programs.