

2006 AGRICULTURE POLICIES OF SARASOTA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

GLOSSARY

Best Management Practices (BMPs):

"... BMPs were developed and implemented as a requirement of the 1977 amendments to the Clean Water Act. BMPs are established soil conservation practices that also provide water quality benefits. They include such practices as cover crops, green manure crops, and stripcropping to control erosion; and soil testing and targeting and timing of chemical applications (similar to IPM) to prevent the loss of nutrients and pesticides. District soil conservation agents use BMPs in helping individual farmers develop conservation plans for their farms." (1)

Local/Community Food System:

A community food system, also known as a local food system, "is a collaborative effort to integrate agricultural production with food distribution to enhance the economic, environmental, and social well-being of a particular place (i.e. a neighborhood, city, county or region)."

"One of the primary assumptions underlying the sustainable diet concept is that foods are produced, processed, and distributed as locally as possible. This approach supports a food system that preserves local farmland and fosters community economic viability, requires less energy for transportation, and offers consumers the freshest foods." (1)

Organic Farming:

The following definition was drafted and passed by the USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) in April 1995. It was developed by a joint NOSB/National Organic Program task force, and incorporated language from the Codex Draft Guidelines for organically produced foods: "Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. 'Organic' is a labeling term that denotes products produced under the authority of the Organic Foods Production Act. The principal guidelines for organic production are to use materials and practices that enhance the ecological balance of natural systems and that integrate the parts of the farming system into an ecological whole. Organic agriculture practices cannot ensure that products are completely free of residues; however, methods are used to minimize pollution from air, soil and water. Organic food handlers, processors and retailers adhere to standards that maintain the integrity of organic agricultural products. The primary goal of organic agriculture is to optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals and people." (1)

Sarasota County Agriculture Policy Council
November 17, 2008

Sustainable Agriculture:

“Sustainable agriculture means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that over the long term will:

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs.
- Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends.
- Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls.
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations.
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.” (2)

Research and Education (SARE) program (USDA):

SARE is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's primary means of studying and publicizing sustainable agriculture practices. Through a competitive grants program that works with teams of agencies, organizations, and farmers, more than 3000 (8/23/07) projects have been implemented. Initially called the Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) program, SARE was authorized by Congress in the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198) in response to widespread acknowledgment that science-based information was lacking for farmers seeking to reduce chemical use in crop production. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 renamed LISA the **Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program**, and added two other programs—one for research on integrated crop/livestock operations, and another to train Extension Service agents in disseminating sustainable farming practices. (1)

References

1) Gold, M.V. 2007. Sustainable Agriculture: Definitions and Terms. Special Reference Briefs Series no. SRB 99-02. National Agriculture Library, USDA.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/terms/srb9902terms.shtml#term3>

2) 1990 USDA Farm Bill. (United States Congress, 1990. *Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Public Law 101-624*. Title XVI, Subtitle A, Section 1603. Washington, DC: US Government)