



ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FARMING ON THE LIKERT SCALE

OVERVIEW

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In this activity, you will consider the importance of the concepts you learned about farming and the ways in which farmers interact with land, water, earth, and animals. You will rate the importance of each of the concepts and discuss in groups where future efforts are, in your view, most important for sustainability.

TIME

.....
30-45 minutes

MATERIALS

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In addition to common classroom materials and an internet connection, you will need:

- Sustainable Farming Likert scale survey

INTRODUCTION

Knowing your audience is always helpful when you are advocating for change. In this unit, you have learned about a variety of farming techniques, the ways the elements of wind, water, and earth interact with the biosphere to produce healthy milk and food, the farmers' roles and responsibilities in caring for the environment, and the types of innovations being developed. If you want to make changes or continue improvements in the farming world, it is important to know what people already think and in what areas you can direct people's attention in order to make progress.



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ACTIVITY STEPS

Step 1

Refresh your memory about the elements and processes of farming:

- **Classical natural elements of farming:** The elements of earth, wind, water, and fire interact with each other in the biosphere to help keep farmlands and dairy cows healthy and productive.
- **Farming tasks throughout the year:** Farmers have a job that they do every day all year long. They use spring, summer, and fall months for planting and harvesting/milking, and winter months for planning, maintenance, and other tasks.
- **Planning:** It is important for farmers to set goals and plan, just as it's important for you to plan for success in your own life, including setting personal goals.
- **Sustainability:** Helping create sustainable processes in farming, production, supply chain interactions, and community requires innovation and commitment.

Step 2

In thinking about the concepts you have studied in this lesson set, what have you determined about the importance of farming? How is farming important to

farmers, the community and the environment? Tools like the Likert scales can be helpful in measuring public perception on important issues.

Likert scales measure how much respondents agree with a statement, usually on the scale of one to five. Some scales may have the respondents rank the importance of a statement from one to five. These tools help you to understand what people think about an issue and can help you tailor what you are doing to try to gain more agreement from your audience. Now, complete the Sustainable Farming Likert Scale Survey on the next page.

Step 3

Get together in groups of 4-6 and compile your Likert scale results. How are your results similar to or different from your classmates' answers? Discuss with your group on where you agree or differ.

HOME CONNECTIONS

Bring the Likert scale home to your family and caregivers to understand their opinions on the topics you have been studying. Find out what they know and what priorities they think farming should follow and share what you have learned.



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LIKERT SCALE SURVEY

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Choose one option for each statement)

Questions	Not Important (1)	Slightly Important (2)	Moderately Important (3)	Important (4)	Very important (5)
How important are farmers for the land including growing nutrient rich foods for people and animals, reducing our greenhouse gases footprint, regenerating soil, etc.?					
How important is it to conserve water for animals to drink and plants/crops to grow?					
How important is it for farmers to set goals and plan their workload throughout the year?					
How important is it for you to set goals and plan, especially for your health, throughout the year?					
How important is it for farmers to innovate and create or adopt process to improve sustainability in farming, production, the supply chain, and community engagement?					