Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Action Threshold	A point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate that pest control action must be taken. The point at which pests become an economic threat.	
Active Ingredients	The substance(s) in a product that are biologically active and directly help in achieving the product's performance objective(s).	
Agrochemicals	Substances that control pests on farms, protect plants from pests, regulate plant growth, and cause defoliation and control; these substances include pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, chemical growth agents (Abscisic Acid, Auxins, Cytotokins, Ethylene, Gibberellins) and leaf defoliants. Agrochemicals also include other products used in agriculture such as paint, baits, disinfectants and preservatives.	
Agrochemical Containers	A storage receptacle, typically formed from plastic, that can withhold a determined amount of agrochemicals and protects from environmental conditions.	
Agrochemical Waste	Containers and/or bags that have come in contact with agrochemicals and may also include any residue that remains in an agrochemical container.	
Alley Cropping	The cultivation of food, forage or specialty crops between rows of trees. The trees, managed as hedgerows, are grown in wide rows and the crop is planted in the interspace or 'alley' between the tree rows	
Animal Husbandry	The science of breeding, rearing, and caring for farm animals.	
Annual Crop	Plant that completes its life cycle in one year.	
Antagonists	A substance that interferes with or inhibits the physiological action of another.	
Applicator Certification Requirements	A process and training needed or mandated for putting certain plant protection products on plants, as determined by regulation.	
Aquifers	An underground source of water.	
Assessment	An evaluation and documentation of the current situation.	
Assets	A resource with economic value that an individual or company owns or controls with the expectation that it will provide future benefit.	
Atmospheric Conditions	Elements that affect weather patterns, including wind, precipitation and temperature.	
Avoidance of Pests	Practice used when pest populations exist in a field or site but the impact of the pest on the crop can be avoided through some cultural practice. Examples of avoidance tactics include crop rotation such that the crop of choice is not a host for the pest, choosing cultivars with genetic resistance to pests, using trap crops or pheromone traps, choosing cultivars with maturity dates that may allow harvest before pest populations develop, fertilization programs to promote rapid crop development and simply not planting certain areas of fields where pest populations are likely to cause crop failure.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Balance Sheet	A financial statement that summarizes a company's assets, liabilities and shareholders' equity at a specific point in time.	
Beneficials	Organisms that provide a benefit to crop production, applied especially to natural enemies of pests and pollinators such as bees.	
Best Management Practices (BMP)	Structural and non-structural methods used to reduce the amount of nutrients, sediments, plant protection products and other pollutants entering a water source, impacting the air, altering wildlife habitats, etc.	
Bio-digester	A collection of processes by which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen, to manage waste and/or to produce fuels.	
Biodiversity	Biological diversity or variability among living organisms from all sources, including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.	
Biodiversity Management Plan	A document which shows the species present on a site and management actions needed to maintain and/or attract desired species.	
Biofilters	A pollution control technique using living material to capture and biologically degrade pollutants.	
Biofuels	Fuel such as methane produced from renewable biological resources such as plant biomass and treated municipal and industrial waste.	
Biological Controls	Method of controlling pests and diseases in agriculture that relies on natural predation rather than introduced chemicals.	
Biomass	Organic material both above-ground and below-ground and both living and dead.	
Biosolids	Residual material remaining from sewage treatment plants.	
Bribery	Money or favor given or promised in order to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust.	
Buffer Zones	Vegetated areas surrounding sensitive areas that provide protection from runoff which may contain sediment, chemicals and/or fertilizers.	
Calibration	Measuring and adjusting the output and working rate of application equipment in order to achieve accurate dosage rates.	
Calibration Records	Documents that portray the amount (i.e. gallons/minute or kh/ha) of product applied by the application machinery.	
Cartographic Soil-Type Map	A map of the soil produced through the use of aerial imagery.	
Channel Stabilization	Measure(s) used to control erosion and/or mass movement of soil on the bank, bed or bottom of a water conveyance or stream.	
Chemical Contaminants	Products that may negatively affect the quality of water.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Chemical Controls	The method of using pesticides are used to control pests. These chemicals are also called insecticides.	
Chemigation	The addition of chemicals to irrigation water for application to crops.	
Closed Irrigation System	A system where applied water runoff is collected and reused to irrigate.	
Confined Spaces	A space large enough for an employee to enter and perform work, that has limited means for exit, and is not designed for continuous occupancy.	
Composting	Purposeful biodegradation of organic material. The process of converting dead animals, raw manure or other raw organic by-products into biologically stable organic material.	
Conservation	The management of human use of organisms or ecosystems to ensure that such use is sustainable.	
Conservation Practices	Structures, methods or managerial decisions that, when implemented, can improve soil quality, water quality, biodiversity and/or energy efficiency.	
Contaminant	A substance that is either present in an environment where it does not belong or is present at levels that might cause harmful effects.	
Contour Buffer Strips	Narrow strips of perennial, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with wider cropped strips.	
Contour Farming	The practice of tilling sloped land along lines of consistent elevation in order to conserve rainwater and to reduce soil losses from surface erosion.	
Control Mechanisms	Cultural, biological, mechanical or chemical methods implemented for integrated pest management.	
Control Traffic System	The practice of using the same "tracks" for all field operations with the result of improving efficiency and farm output and soil properties; particularly soil compaction.	
Conveyance Structures	A pipeline or fixed lining of impervious material installed in an existing or newly constructed irrigation field ditch or irrigation canal or lateral (an open drainage ditch constructed to a designed size and grade) to move water from one location to another.	
Corruption	Inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means.	
Cover Crops	Crops including grasses, legumes and forbs planted for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes, such as erosion control and organic matter.	
Critical Area Plantings	Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have, or are expected to have, high erosion rates and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.	
Critical Growth Stages	Stages in a plant's development when active growth occurs and when plants are generally sensitive to a deficiency in water.	

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Term	Definition	
Crop Refuge Acres	Method used when planting crops with Bt traits to prevent native insects from developing resistance. This is done by planting a certain percentage of crops that do not have the Bt trait. The non-Bt crops must be planted near the Bt crops, preferably in the same field.	
Crop Residue	The materials left behind after harvest has occurred which include stems, roots and leaves.	
Crop Rotation	The practice of growing annual and perennial crops in a specific sequence on a specific growing location.	
Crop Scouting Records	Reports of field review that identify the justification for activities in an integrated pest management system.	
Crop Stubble	Crop residue that remains standing after the crop has been harvested.	
Crop Uptake	Water and nutrients needed to be absorbed by the plant to adequately produce a harvestable crop.	
Cultural Controls	The practice of modifying the growing environment to reduce the prevalence of unwanted pests. Examples include changing soil pH or fertility levels, irrigation practices, amount of sunlight, temperature, or the use of beneficial animals or insects.	
Deep-Rooted Conservation Crop	Crops whose root systems break up compacted soils. Deep rooted crops can be perennial plants, like alfalfa, or annual plants, like forage radish.	
Deep Tillage	Performing tillage operations below the normal tillage depth to modify adverse physical or chemical properties of the soil.	
Direct Seeding	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round, while limiting soil-disturbing activities to only those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.	
Diversions	A channel conveying runoff, constructed across the slope, generally with a supporting ridge on the lower side.	
Documentation	Proof of intent or actions taken which may include photographs, written records, electronic records, receipts, etc.	
Double Entry Accounting	A method of bookkeeping in which a transaction is entered both as a debit to one account and a credit to another account so that the totals of debits and credits are equal.	
Drift	To be carried along by the flow of water or air. This generally refers to nutrients or pesticides being applied that are carried away from the targeted area by air.	
Drip Irrigation	A controlled delivery of water applied slowly and directly to individual plants through a network of tubes or pipes.	
Drop Nozzles	Extension to irrigation water and/or pesticides application equipment from the equipment down into the crop used to secure an accurate placement of water and/or spray.	
Easements	A right held by one property owner to make use of land of another for a limited purpose.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Ecological Processes	Natural occurrences which relate to the environment and the way that plants, animals and humans live together and interact with one another.	
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit.	
Endangered Species	Species that are in danger of extinction in the wild throughout all or a significant portion of its range.	
Energy Assessment	An evaluation of current energy use and ways to improve energy efficiency.	
Environment	Water, air, land, wild species of fauna and flora, and any interrelationship between them, as well as any relationship with living organisms.	
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	
EPA Registration Number	Number given to pesticides by the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure they are registered with the United States government and safe to use when applied according to label rates.	
Environmental Risk	Actual or potential threat of adverse effects on living organisms and environment by effluents, emissions, wastes, resource depletion, etc., arising out of an organization's activities.	
Environmentally Sensitive Area	A place that is vulnerable to a negative environmental impact, such as a flood plain, a wetland, an area where noise levels are excessively high, or an EPA- designated plant, fish, and animal habitat.	
Equipment Rollover Safety	Safety practices focusing on the risk of machinery and equipment rolling over during use.	
Erosion	The mechanical movement of the land surface by wind, rain, running water or moving ice resulting in the wearing away of land or soil.	
Estate Plan	Instructions on how you want your physical possessions and finances handled after you pass away.	
Estuaries	A body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the seawater.	
Evapotranspiration	The return of moisture to the air through both evaporation from the soil and transpiration by plants.	
Farm Operation	Any activity conducted solely or primarily for the production of one or more agricultural products or commodities and customarily producing such products or commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's livelihood.	
Fauna	All of the animal life of any particular region or time.	
Fertigation	The addition of fertilizers to irrigation water for application to crops.	
Fertilizers	Any organic or inorganic materials of natural or synthetic origin which are added to soil to provide nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, necessary to sustain plant growth.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Field Borders	A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge, or around the perimeter, of a field.	
Filter Strips	An area of herbaceous vegetation planted and maintained to remove contaminants from overland flow.	
Flood Irrigation	An irrigation method in which water is delivered to the field by ditch, pipe or some other means and simply flows over the ground through the crop.	
Flora	The plant life occurring in a particular region or time, generally the naturally occurring or indigenous, native plant life.	
Flotation Tires	Tires with low pressure and a very large contact area which are used on farm machinery to reduce compaction of the soil by spreading out the equipment's weight over a larger surface area.	
Fossil Fuels	A hydrocarbon deposit, such as petroleum, coal, or natural gas, derived from living matter in a previous geological time.	
Fraud	Intentional perversion of truth in order to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal right.	
Fumigation	A method of pest control that completely fills an area with gaseous pesticides or fumigants, to suffocate or poison the pests within. It is utilized for control of pests in buildings (structural fumigation), soil, grain and produce.	
Furrow	A narrow trench in soil made by a plow.	
Furrow Irrigation	An irrigation method in which water travels through the field by means of small channels between each groups of rows.	
Gated Pipe	Aluminum pipe used in gravity irrigation systems to convey water to crops and to help regulate the amount of water applied.	
Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	A collection of rules, procedures and conventions that define accepted accounting practices which include broad guidelines as well as detailed procedures.	
Genetically Modified Crops	Crops that have been biologically engineered (i.e. herbicide, pesticide resistance traits).	
Genetically Modified Products	Products that have had their DNA altered.	
Geothermal Energy	A renewable source of energy that uses the Earth's natural heating and cooling.	
Global Positioning System Technology	The use of satellites to provide time and location information. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) can be used in farming operations during planting, harvest, tillage, fertilizer application, chemical application, etc.	
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism	
Grade Stabilization Structure	A structure used to control the channel slope in natural or constructed watercourses.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Grassed Waterways	A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet.	
Grazing Intervals	The type and number of livestock being grazed in a particular area and how long they are allowed to graze on that area.	
Gross Revenue	Money generated by all of a company's operations, before deductions for expenses.	
Groundwater	All water that is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground of the soil.	
Growing Location	Any area where crops are planted and/or raised.	
Hazardous Substances	Any substance that is dangerous and potentially harmful to humans and the environment; these are often toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive and/or chemically reactive.	
Heavy Metals	A member of a loosely-defined subset of elements or compounds that exhibit metallic properties that have a relative density of 5.0 or higher which may harm human health when absorbed or inhaled; examples include lead, mercury, copper and cadmium.	
Hedgerows	Establishing a living fence of shrubs or trees in, across, or around a field.	
Herbicide	A chemical that controls or destroys undesirable plants.	
Income Statement	A financial statement that shows revenues, expenses and income of a corporation over a period of time.	
Industry Codes of Practice	Product guidelines with best management practices for handling, storage, transportation, and application techniques and methods.	
Inorganic Fertilizer	A fertilizer in which the declared nutrients are in the form of minerals obtained by extraction or by physical and/or chemical industrial processes.	
Insectary Strips	Plantings along field edges or directly within fields that help ensure that flowering habitat is in close proximity to the crop fields where pollination and pest control services are most needed. These are plants that provide bloom very quickly and do not require much weed control prior to planting.	
Integrated Pest Management Plan	A document containing an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.	
Intensive Rotational Grazing	A system of forage use in which ruminant and non-ruminant herds and/or flocks are regularly and systematically moved to fresh rested areas with the intent to maximize the quality and quantity of forage growth.	

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Term	Definition	
Invasive Species	Plants or animals which spread beyond their planned range and displace native species.	
Irrigation	The artificial application of water to the land or soil. It is used to assist in the growing of agricultural crops, protecting plants against frost, suppressing weed growing in grain fields and helping in preventing soil consolidation.	
Irrigation-Induced Erosion	The movement of soil by water from unnaturally occurring sources.	
Irrigation Water Management	The process of planning and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in an efficient and environmentally responsible manner.	
Irrigation Water Management Plan	A document developed to schedule the application of irrigation water or irrigation water management principles.	
Irrigation Water Management Practices	Methods, procedures or structures for the application of irrigation water per irrigation water management principles.	
Land Management Practices	Methods, procedures or management decisions implemented on the ground.	
Laser leveling	Reshaping the surface of land to be irrigated to planned grades using a topographic instrument with a laser.	
Leaf Tissue/Sap Test	A test of plants to determine the nutrients in the plant and/or the amount of nutrients needed for optimum growth.	
Legume Credits	Nitrogen credits given to subsequent non-leguminous plants that reduce the amount of nitrogen fertilizer that is to be applied.	
Liabilities	A company's legal debts or obligations that arise during the course of business operations.	
Liquidity	A financial metric that is used to determine a company's ability to pay off its short-term debt obligations.	
Location	A geographic area that has the opportunity to be managed differently; often referred to as a field, plot, grove, orchard, bog, greenhouse room, etc.	
Mass Movement	The down slope movement of soil materials under the influence of gravity.	
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)	Documents which contain information regarding the properties of a particular substance. An MSDS contains information about chemical properties, safety, precautions, hazards, handling, storage and disposal.	
Mechanical Controls	Any physical activity that inhibits unwanted plant growth. Mechanical, or manual, control techniques manage populations through physical methods that remove, injure, kill, or make the growing conditions unfavorable.	
Methane	A chemical compound of carbon and hydrogen.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Methane digesters	A component of a waste management system that provides biological treatment in the absence of oxygen and generates methane that can be used for conversion to energy.	
Microbial Contaminants	Pollution of water from the growth of harmful microorganisms that can cause potential harm to human and animal health.	
Micronutrients	Nutrients needed, such as vitamins or minerals, in minute amounts for the essential growth and development of an organism.	
Minerals	Substances that occur naturally in rocks and in the ground and have their own characteristic appearance and chemical composition, such as nitrates.	
Minimum Till	A production system in which soil conservation is kept to the minimum necessary for crop establishment and growth, thereby reducing labor and fuel costs and damage to soil structure.	
Mulching	Applying plant residues, by-products or other suitable materials off-site, to the land surface.	
Municipal Waste	Any garbage or refuse, sludge of wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or an air pollution control facility and other discarded material including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining and agricultural operations and from community activities.	
N, P, K, Salinity	Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), Potassium (K), are nutrients that can cause water quality impairment problems. Salinity is determined through the amount of Sodium, Chloride, Magnesium and/or Calcium that may be in the water.	
Native Species	A plant species that originates in a particular area and has not been moved there by humans.	
Naturally Occurring Rates (soil loss)	Happening in a normal and unaffected manner and in this case usually measured by a trend analysis of aerial photos.	
Net Farm Income	The return, both monetary and non-monetary, to farm operators for their labor, management and capital, after all production expenses have been paid (i.e. gross farm income minus production expenses).	
NGO	Non-Government Organization	
No-Till	A system for planting crops into undisturbed crop residue (without tillage) often using herbicides to control weeds and resulting in reduced soil erosion and the preservation of soil nutrients.	
Non-Absorbent Surface	A surface that is not capable of soaking up liquids, etc.	
Non-GMO Crops	Crops that have not been biologically engineered.	
Non-Invasive Species	Plants or animals that tend not to displace other plants throughout their range.	
Non-Production Related Products	Products that are not used directly for agricultural production; these include but are not limited to paints, thinners, caulk, baits, disinfectants, preservatives, etc.	
Non-Renewable Energy	An energy source that is not replaced or is replaced only very slowly by natural process (fossil fuels, oil, natural gas).	

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Term	Definition	
Nutrients	Organic and/or inorganic chemicals needed by an organism to live; these include but are not limited to manure, commercial fertilizer and/or treated biosolids applied to the land to provide plant food.	
Nutrient Analysis	As a minimum, the content of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium in fertilizer; and also includes heavy metal content in biosolids.	
Nutrient Banking	Building soil fertility levels for future plant use.	
Nutrient Contamination Potential	An evaluation of the likelihood that an applied nutrient will cause harm to the environment.	
Nutrient Management Plan	A document that determines the application rate, location, form, placement and timing of plant nutrients based upon plant needs, crop rotations, soils tests, land slope, nearby water sources and previous crops.	
Nutrient Mining	Depleting soil fertility levels below what is needed for plant health.	
Off-Label	The use of a product in a way not mentioned on the product label.	
Organic Fertilizer	Materials of animal origin used to maintain or improve plant nutrition and the physical and chemical properties and biological activity of soils, either separately or together, they may include manure, compost and digestion residues.	
Organic Matter	The portion of the soil that is derived from living things.	
Outlets to Channel Flow	An open channel or underground conduit that serves as the receptacle for drainage water from drainage systems on the landscape.	
pH	The scale used to determine the acidity or alkalinity of a substance.	
P-Index	Tool used to determine phosphorus runoff potential.	
Perennial Crops	Crops that live for more than two years that do not need to be replanted after each harvest.	
Personal Protective Equipment	Protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury. The hazards addressed by protective equipment may include physical, electrical, heat, chemicals, biohazards, and airborne particulate matter.	
Physical Contaminates	Pollution of water caused by color change, suspended solids, foaming, temperature conditions or radioactivity which could cause potential harm to human and animal health.	
Physical Controls	Method of getting rid of insects and small rodents by removing, attacking, or setting up barriers that will prevent further destruction of one's plants.	
Placement (of nutrients)	Where plant inputs are applied in relation to the crop.	
Plan	A document that contains an identification, quantification and assessment of current conditions and/or risks and lists procedures, methods and timelines to reach an objective or goal.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Plant Protection Products	Products, including mixtures of products, applied to plants that improve their integrity against pests.	
Plant Protection Product Containers	A storage receptacle typically formed from plastic that can withhold a determined amount of plant protection products and which protects from environmental conditions.	
Plant Protection Product Storage	The act of placing and holding products applied to plants to improve their integrity against pests and to minimize chances of environmental damage.	
Plow pan	A hard layer of soil that is developed at plow depth.	
Pollinators	An agent, typically an insect, that transfers pollen from the male anthers to the female stigma.	
Precision Agriculture	The use of a Global Positioning Systems while performing agricultural operations like tillage, nutrient application, planting, harvest, etc.	
Pre-Harvest Interval	The period of time needed between the application of a plant protection product and harvest.	
Pre-Planting interval	The time between the application of a fungicide and the planting of the crop.	
Profitability	The state or condition of yielding a financial profit or gain.	
Protected Areas	A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed through legal or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.	
Realistic Yield Goals	The establishment of an annual yield target that is reasonable based upon past performance and new technology.	
Recycling in Flood or Furrow-Irrigated Fields	Collecting runoff from applied water and re-using it in the irrigation system.	
Reduction of Sediment	Controlling the amount/rate of soil erosion, thus reducing the resultant sediment.	
Refuge Acres	Helping to keep the percentage of potentially resistant insects low by giving them a population of susceptible insects with which to mate, thus diluting any resistance in their offspring.	
Remnant Ecosystems	A small amount of a natural ecological community that remains on the landscape.	
Remote Sensing Technology	The use of satellites to determine a variety of conditions including the amount of chlorophyll in plants, soil moisture levels, crop canopy, soil erosion, etc.	
Renewable Energy	A source of energy that is capable of being replenished through natural processes; these do not release carbon dioxide because they are not carbon based and because they grow back in a short period of time.	
Repayment Capacity	A company's financial ability to make good on a debt.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Residue Management	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface during a specified period of the year, while planting annual crops on a clean-tilled seedbed or when growing biennial or perennial seed crops.	
Resulting Sludge	Thick soft substance, from human waste, that remains when liquid has been removed.	
Retained Earnings	The portion of net income or net profit, taken from the income statement, that are not paid out as dividends and are reinvested in the company or used for some purpose by the company.	
Ridge Till	Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops on pre-formed ridges alternated with furrows protected by crop residue.	
Right of Way	The legal right, established by usage or grant, to pass along a specific route through property belonging to another.	
Rinsate	The solution remaining after a nutrient or pesticide container is cleaned with water.	
Riparian Buffers	An area of predominantly grasses located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.	
Riparian Forest Buffers	An area with trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.	
Rodent Control Program	A plan to control varmints and other animals.	
Rootstock	The part of a plant that has already been established and is used for seed or vegetative production.	
Scouting	Visual inspection of a crop field to determine the type, amount, threshold and location of pests present.	
Scouting Activity	The time and date when a field visit is conducted.	
Scouting Report	The documentation of field observation and measurement of pests that are affecting a crop.	
Secondary Containment	A safeguard method used to prevent unplanned releases of toxic or hazardous compounds into uncontrolled areas. A level of containment that is external to and separate from primary containment.	
Sensitive Areas	An area which includes a natural feature, such as the habitat of a rare species, which can be easily harmed and is therefore protected by regulation.	
Setback Distance	A minimum distance that is used for non-application of product in order to protect sensitive areas or other areas of concern against agricultural runoff or pesticide drift.	
Sewage	The waste and wastewater produced by residential and commercial sources and discharged into sewers.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Sewage Sludge	The accumulated settled solids separated from various types of water either moist or mixed with liquid component as a result of natural or artificial processes.	
Shelterbelts	Linear plantings of trees or shrubs established for environmental purposes.	
Sludge	Solids in sewage that are separated during treatment.	
Soil Amendments	Any material added to a soil to improve its physical properties.	
Soil Compaction	Soil that has been altered by compressing the soil structure and decreasing soil porosity.	
Soil Crusting	The occurrence of a hard layer at the soil surface caused from heavy moisture, excessive salt and dry temperatures.	
Soil Erosion	The detachment, transportation and deposition of soil particles due to wind and/or water.	
Soil Erosion Prevention and Control Plan	A document which contains a planned sequence of activities (i.e. conservation practices) to apply erosion control practices to the landscape.	
Soil Fertility	The capacity of a soil to provide crops with essential plant nutrients.	
Soil Loss Value	The amount of soil that is being eroded; measured in ton/acre/year.	
Soil Maps	Maps used to identify different soil types on the landscape.	
Soil pH	The acidity/alkalinity of the soil.	
Soil Quality	The capacity of a specific kind of soil to function, within natural or managed ecosystem boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality and support human health and habitation.	
Soil Quality Test	An in-field tool that measures the biological, chemical and physical components of the soil.	
Soil Slippage	The vertical movement of soil downhill due to factors such as excessive rain, little vegetative cover and unstable soil conditions.	
Soil Test	A tool used to determine the amount of nutrients in the soil.	
Solvency	The state of a company being able to service its debt and meet its other obligations, especially in the long-term.	
Statement of Cash Flows	A financial statement that summarizes the actual or anticipated incomings and outgoings of cash in a company over a period of time.	
Statement of Owner Equity	A financial statement that shows the beginning balance, additions to and deductions from, and the ending balance of the shareholders' equity account for a period of time.	
Stream bank and Shoreline Protection	Covering exposed soil on the banks of a stream bank or shoreline to protect it from erosion from the water.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Strip Cropping	Growing planned rotations of row crops, forages, small grains or fallow in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips across a field.	
Strip Tillage	A method of crop production where soil and residue is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for strips up to a third of the row width; no full width tillage operations are done. These strips are cleared of residue and tilled for warming and drying purposes either before or during the planting operation. This practice is also referred to as row-till, zone-till or fall strip-till.	
Structure Maintenance and Repair Program	A routine that is implemented in which buildings and/or bins or structural conservation practices are kept in proper working order.	
Subsurface Drainage	Perforated conduit that is installed below the surface of the soil to remove excess water.	
Suppression Strategies	Methods of reducing the number of pests and/or the damage from pests through integrated pest management.	
Surface Runoff	Flow of surplus water over the surface of the ground that occurs when rainfall or water application is not absorbed into the soil or evaporated.	
Surface Water	All waters on the surface of the Earth found in rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, marshes, wetlands, as ice and snow, and transitional, coastal and marine waters.	
Surface Water Runoff	The flow of surplus water over the surface of the ground that occurs when rainfall or water application is not absorbed into the soil or evaporated.	
Sustainability	The capacity to endure or a long-term maintenance of responsibility which has environmental, economic and social dimensions, and encompasses the concept of stewardship and the responsible management of resource use.	
Sustainability Plan	A document containing specifications for long-term agricultural production as defined by Grain Millers in its agriculture sustainability standards.	
Sustainability Statement	A position on long-term agricultural production as defined by Grain Millers in its agriculture sustainability standards.	
"T"	A metric for stating allowable soil loss that varies by soil type and location; measured in tons per acre/per year.	
Tailwater	An excess of surface water on an irrigated field.	
Tailwater Recovery System	An irrigation system in which all facilities utilized for the collection, storage and transportation of irrigation tailwater for reuse have been installed.	
Term Debt	An account shown in the current liabilities portion of a company's balance sheet that is comprised of any debt incurred by a company that is due within one year (i.e. short-term bank loans).	
Terraces	An earth embankment, or a combination ridge and channel, constructed across the field slope.	

Sustainability Glossary

Term	Definition	
Tests and Assessments Consider N, P, K, Minerals, Microbes and pH	An evaluation tools which provide information relative to the content of Nitrogen, Potassium, Phosphorous, trace elements and acidity levels.	
Threatened Species	A species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.	
Thresholds	The maximum allowable before corrective action is taken.	
Tillage	Cultivation of agricultural fields.	
Top Soil	The upper part of the soil profile that is relatively rich in humus, which is technically known as the A-horizon of the soil profile.	
Transition/Succession Plan	A plan that guides the process of passing on a farm or business to new leadership as smoothly as possible. Often done so farms can be handed down to the next generation of owners.	
Untreated Biosolids	Untreated raw sewage or waste water that has not been processed.	
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture	
Valuation Equity	Provides prospective investors, creditors or shareholders with an accurate perspective of the true value of a company at a given time by using both tangible and intangible assets.	
Variable Rate Technology	Instrumentation such as a variable-rate controller for varying the rates of application of fertilizer, pesticides and seed as one travels across a field.	
Verify	An independent examination to check whether or not something is true or has achieved an expected standard by examination, investigation or comparison.	
Waste water	Water that has been used for washing, flushing or in processing and so contains waste products. Spent or used water with dissolved or suspended solids discharged from the home, the farming operation and product processing.	
Water and Sediment Control Basins	An earth embankment or a combination ridge and channel generally constructed across the slope and minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and water detention basin.	
Water Control Structure	A structure in a water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, maintains a desired water surface elevation or measures water. The practice may be applied as a management component of a water management system to control the stage, discharge, distribution, delivery or direction of water flow.	
Water Conveyance	The systematic and intentional means by which flow or transfer of water from one point to another occurs.	
Water Course Flow	A natural or artificial channel through which water moves.	
Water Delivery Methods	A procedure or process for moving water from one location to the other.	
Water Discharge and Disposal Risk Assessment	A document containing the risk or hazard for releasing water and prioritization of acting to overcome identified risks.	

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Water Erosion	Detachment, transportation and movement of soil particles due to water.	
Water Erosion Control Practices	Land management, non-structural and/or structural conservation practices used to reduce soil erosion from water.	
Water Scarce Region	An area, as defined by regulatory requirements, that lacks access to adequate quantities of water for human and environmental uses.	
Water Source Assessment	A document containing the risk, or hazard, from withdrawing water. This assessment should be at a minimum an aerial map of the production area that identifies all water sources including wells, springs and surface water. In addition to the map there should be a written summary of all water sources to the farm. The plan also needs to identify how the farm accesses and uses that water including rate of withdrawal if irrigation is used. The plan should also include consideration of risks, realized or likely, posed to the farm's water sources.	
Water Transport	Moving water from one location to another.	
Weed Control Program	A plan or system implemented to increase crop yields and reduce plant pests.	
Wetland	A land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, such that it takes on characteristics that distinguish it as a distinct ecosystem.	
Wildlife	Non-domesticated animal species, plants and other microbes that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans.	
Windbreaks	Barriers established around fields and/or farmsteads to reduce and redirect wind.	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Linear plantings of multiple rows of trees or shrubs established for environmental purposes.	
Woodland Management	Manipulating a species' composition by cutting or eliminating selected trees and understory vegetation.	
Woodland Planting	Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings, container/potted plants, cuttings or by direct seeding.	