



2011

Richland County Farm-City Week: 9th-12th Grade Individual or Team Video *Sustainable Agriculture*

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade students in public and private schools in Richland County and 9th-12th grade homeschooled students living in Richland County are eligible to participate.

Overview: “Sustainable Agriculture” is farming in a way that protects the soil, water, air, plants, wildlife, and people. Sustainable farming practices include:

- Reducing soil erosion
- Composting and mulching
- Using optimal fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides
- Using efficient irrigation techniques
- Rotating crops
- Planting cover crops
- Increasing crop diversity
- Selling and buying food locally
- Managing livestock manure
- Increasing free range livestock production
- Rotational grazing
- Reducing farm energy use
- Using renewable energy sources to power the farm and farm equipment
- Integrating wildlife habitat into the farm plan

Assignment: Your assignment is to produce a video documentary of an investigation of sustainable farming in South Carolina. You should participate in one or more of the following activities (or a related activity) to learn about sustainable agriculture:

- Visit a local farm
- Visit a local farmers market
- Interview a farmer
- Invite a farmer to visit your school
- Visit the produce section of your local grocery store
- Interview the produce manager at your local grocery store
- Start a class or school composting project or other class project
- demonstrating a practice of sustainable agriculture
- Conduct an experiment to test the effects of sustainable agricultural practices
- Contact local government agencies to find out how they promote sustainable agriculture; invite representatives to visit your school! Contact us for ideas.

Students may undertake these activities as a class or individually. Simultaneously with the investigation, students (individually or in teams of up to five students) should produce a video or slideshow of photographs that documents their learning and can serve to educate others about sustainable agriculture or a specific practice of sustainable agriculture.

Rules: Entries must be the original work of an individual student or teams of up to five students. Videos and slideshows must not exceed five minutes in length and must be ready to play without

the use of proprietary software. (Adobe Acrobat, QuickTime, Flash, and RealPlayer are all acceptable file formats.) Entries must be rated “G” (no profanity, violence, sex, or direct attacks on individuals or organizations).

Judging: Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Evidence of understanding of the theme (sustainable agriculture)
- Creativity of the investigation
- Creativity of the photo/video production
- Technical accuracy/content
- Quality

Prizes: The first place winner (individual or team) in each grade will receive a \$100 prize; second place will receive a \$75 prize; and third place will receive a \$50 prize. The sponsoring teacher of the first place winner(s) in each grade will also receive a \$100 prize.

Timeline:

October 28th: All submissions must be received or postmarked by this date. Note: teachers should submit only their top three entries.

November 18th-24th: National Farm-City Week; winner notifications and media opportunities for winners and participants

To enter: Complete the Individual or Team Video entry form for each submission (limit three submissions per teacher) and mail or deliver it to the address provided along with a CD or DVD containing the video or slideshow.

Questions: Direct any questions to:

Chanda L. Cooper
Richland Soil & Water Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063 A
Columbia, SC 29204
(w) 803-576-2084
(f) 803-576-2088
cooperc@rcgov.us



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Entry Form (Due Oct. 28th)

Complete this form (one per submission, limit three per teacher), and return it, along with a CD or DVD containing the video or slideshow, via mail or hand-delivery to:

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School name:

Principal:

School address:

School telephone #:

Teacher name (first and last for certificate):

Teacher e-mail address:

Grade:

Title of submission:

Name(s) of video/photographer(s) (first and last for certificates)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.