

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CURRICULA: K-12

ATTRA RESOURCE LIST

Abstract: This publication lists curriculum resources that are designed for teaching children in kindergarten through 12th grade about sustainable agriculture.

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INTRODUCTION

Very little has been published in the way of K-12 curricula specifically targeting sustainable and organic agriculture. Much of the published ag-appreciation material is generic to conventional farming. The 11-year-old Wisconsin curriculum *Toward a Sustainable Agriculture*, for grades 9 through 12, is the only complete sustainable agriculture course available. The public school curriculum model is probably, in some respects, inadequate to new paradigms of farming, education, and information management.

At the same time there are more and more farms devoted primarily to education and entertainment, and more children have opportunities to learn outside traditional classrooms. The Internet has revolutionized educational methods. College students and graduates increasingly have the opportunity to spend extended periods of time working in small-scale agriculture, and some continue the work full-time.

Related ATTRA Publications

- [Sustainable Agriculture Organizations and Publications](#)
- [Sustainable Farming Internships and Apprenticeships](#)
(now web-based, with 350 farms and farm schools listed)
- [Entertainment Farming and Agri-Tourism](#)

These publications are available on-line at
<http://www.attra.ncat.org>

American Indian Project (AIP) Staff. 1999. **The Three Sisters: Exploring an Iroquois Garden.** Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Plant Science Project for Youth, available from Cornell University Resource Center (607) 255-2080. See website <<http://www.aip.cornell.edu>>.

Alternative Energy Research Organization (AERO). 1997. **Montana's Sustainable Agriculture: Farming with Foresight**. AERO, Helena, MT.

Used in Montana schools since 1998, this curriculum includes videos and a box of resources. Order from:

AERO
432 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 443-7272
(406) 442-1120 FAX
e-mail: aero@aeromt.org

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. No date. **Noah's Ark Today: Saving Rare Farm Animal Breeds from Extinction**. ALBC, Pittsboro, NC.

Activities for K-6. Includes Teacher's Guide, resources, playing cards set, poster. Available for \$141 from:

ALBC, 15 Hillsborough St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 542-5704, (919) 545-0022 FAX.
e-mail: albc@albc-usa.org
<http://www.albc-usa.org>

Kit can also be rented for \$30. Poster and cards sold separately (see website, special kids section).

Applehof, Mary, Mary F. Fenton, and Barbara Harris. 1993. **Worms Eat Our Garbage: Classroom Activities for a Better Environment**. Flower Press, Kalamazoo, MI.

Order worm composting resources through website <<http://www.wormwoman.com>>.

Bio-Integral Resource Center. 1996. **Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control in Agriculture**. BIRC, Berkeley, CA.

Curriculum available from:

BIRC
P.O. Box 7414
Berkeley, CA 9470
(510) 524-2567

Chicago Urban Gardening. 1997. **The Great Plant Escape**. <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/uplink/gpe/index.html>

On-line interactive plant science curriculum for grades 4 and 5.

Edible Schoolyard

<http://www.edibleschoolyard.org>

McGill University. 1994. **From the Ground Up: Sustainable Agriculture Teachers Guide**. Toronto, Canada.

Available at Green & Growing website <<http://www.gatewest.net/~green>>. Consists of 5 lesson plans, bibliography, resource guide, internet links. Accompanying half-hour video. For junior and senior high school.

Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts (NOFA-MA). 2002. **NOFA Northeast Organic/Sustainable Agriculture Education Directory and Directory of Organic Farming Apprenticeship Programs**.

<http://ma.nofa.org>.

Contact NOFA-MA at:

411 Sheldon Road
Barre, MA 01005
(978) 355-2853
(978) 355-4046 FAX
e-mail: jackkitt@aol.com

Northeast Organic Farming Association, New York (NOFA-NY). 1999. **Internships in Sustainable Farming: A Handbook for Farmers**. NOFA-NY, Tunnel, NY.

Shows farmers how to make an internship a rewarding educational experience. Order for \$6 (\$3 for NOFA members) from:

NOFA-NY
P.O. Box 880
Cobleskill, NY 12043-0021

Pease, James. 1992. **Sustainable Agriculture and Wildlife: Piecing Together a Habitat Puzzle Curriculum**. Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

For educators visiting a residential environmental education site or other sustainable agriculture site. Contains pre- and post-visit activities, as well as 39 other on-site activities on soil, water, and wildlife. Reduced to \$10. No. EDC-3. Order from:

IA State Publications Distribution Office
Printing/Publications Bldg.
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011
(515) 294-5247

Puck's Farm, Schomberg, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.pucksfarm.com>

Contains a Teacher's Guide and FAQ with an array of questions to have ready for a school visit to the farm.

Rawson, Julie (ed.) 1995. The Natural Farmer: Special Supplement on Agriculture and Education. Spring.

Nine articles, including sample curricula for school gardening, home schooling, and Native American agriculture. Contact The Natural Farmer at:

411 Sheldon Road
Barre, MA 01005
(978) 355-2853
(978) 355-4046 FAX
e-mail: jackkitt@aol.com

Traina, Frank and Susan Darley-Hill. 1994. Perspectives in Bioregional Education. North American Association for Environmental Education, Troy, OH.

For further information, see website <<http://www.acorn-group.com/p3127.htm>> or contact:

Frank Traina
Sunrock Farm
103 Gibson Lane
Wilder, KY 41076-9703
(606) 781-5502

Wisconsin Committee. 1991. **Toward a Sustainable Agriculture.** Set of three publications:

- **Teachers Guide**
- **Resources for Teaching Sustainable Agriculture** (used by **National Geographic** as the basis for its December 1995 Geoguide publication)

- **Lessons for Teaching Sustainable Agriculture** \$15 set (includes shipping/handling). No credit card orders. Send check to:

CIAS
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1450 Linden Drive, Rm. 146
Madison, WI 53706-1562
Contact: Chris Carusi
(608) 262-8018
e-mail: cecarusi@facstaff.wisc.edu
Contact: Trish Haza (608) 262-5200 (for info. on payment options)

For more information on the series, see <<http://www.wisc.edu/cias/pubs/curricul.html>>. Note: A number of ATTRA publications were included. Please see ATTRA website or contact (800) 346-9140 for current updates of these publications.

The electronic version of **Sustainable Agriculture Curricula: K-12** is located at:
HTML
<http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/k12.html>
PDF
<http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/k12.pdf>

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