

Water

*Sonoma County Farm Bureau
would like to assist teachers with
thought provoking ideas for
Ag Days 2018.*

Enjoy investigating agriculture!

*We're excited about helping you and
your students with your search.*

What types of systems and processes do farmers use to conserve water?

www.cuesa.org/article/10-ways-farmers-are-saving-water

Did you know that not all plants need soil, but all plants need water?

www.growthtechnology.com/growtorial/what-is-hydroponic-growing

What is Aquaculture?

www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/aquaculture.htm

How do farmers help fish?

www.fishfriendlyfarming.org

How can families conserve water in home gardens?

www.themicrogardener.com/ten-water-saving-tips-for-your-garden

Soil

What does soil do?

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health

What types of soil are food groups grown in?

www.learnaboutag.org/resources/wgo.cfm

What's Growin' On? Fifteenth Edition: Agriculture and the Environment-page 5

What types of sustainable methods do farmers use to conserve soil?

www.learnaboutag.org/resources/wgo.cfm

What's Growin' On? Fifteenth Edition: Agriculture and the Environment-page 5

Why do farmers plant cover crops?

www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/cover-crop-benefits

Farmers, Science, and Soil Health Management

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/mgmt

Ag Facts

Sonoma County Farm Bureau • 707-544-5575 • sonomafb.org



- Local farmers and ranchers join together to keep agriculture strong. Sonoma County Farm Bureau is celebrating 100 years!
- Farm Bureau's mission focuses on keeping our food local, our environment healthy and supporting our farmers and ranchers; the very people who provide for us every day
- Farm Bureau is a family. Every person in the world is connected to agriculture and can join our family to show support

Did You Know?

- Each American farmer produces food and fiber for 165 people annually, both in the United States and abroad
- Farmers and ranchers only receive 16 cents, on average, out of every retail dollar spent on food
- Many products used in every day life are byproducts from plants and animals produced by America's farmers and ranchers. Here's a few: crayons, textbooks, chalk, desks, pencils, shampoo, soap, cosmetics, lotion, toothpaste, pharmaceuticals, sutures, ointments, X-Ray film

Water

The Word on Water...

- Hughes Dairy in Bodega built a roof rainwater catchment pond that will water his cows from January through November
- In the past 40 years, farmers have doubled the amount of food they grow while using 14% less water
- In contour farming, farmers plant crops across the slope of the land to conserve water and protect the soil
- Farmers use laser-leveling of fields, computers, remote sensors and GPS to improve the efficient use of their water supplies
- Irrigation methods are determined by many factors including geographical location, crop type, soil type, climate and economics. Irrigation techniques: surface, micro-irrigation and sprinkler

Soil

The Scoop on Soil...

- Sonoma Valley Worm Farm produces healthy soil for composting. Healthy compost requires less water for plant growth, contains fewer diseases, produces bigger root masses and more resilient plants
- Farmers test the nutrients in the soil before they plant to determine the proper type of crop to plant
- Careful stewardship by America's farmers spurred a 44 percent decline in erosion of cropland since 1982
- Through Farm Bill conservation programs, farmers preserve and protect soil, wetlands, clean air, water and wildlife
- Farmers utilize scientific research to help keep soil healthy, through such studies from agronomy and soil ecology