

What does 'Sustainability' mean for cropping ?

St Joseph's P. S. Senior Class interviewed adults to find out how they would define "farm sustainably by cropping" as part of their 'Sustainability and our Farmland Environment*' unit . Collating the common ideas, we found that

'Yes we can' farm sustainably by cropping by using:

- **minimum tillage farming**
- **and rotating and choosing crops.**

This table lists the replies, with common ideas highlighted:

1	'no till/direct drill' to grow crops
2	Minimum tillage cropping getting rid of weeds and pests
3	conserving moisture by controlling summer weeds; retaining stubble so that soil is sheltered from heat and wind and therefore doesn't dry out or blow away
4	we grow crops with the direct drill method, meaning we don't cultivate the soil prior to sowing , we control weeds with chemicals which retains soil cover with stubble eliminating soil erosion.
5	rotate different crops
6	Rotate crops : wheat, barley, rye, corn
7	We grow lucerne for its deep roots that holds soil well.
8	grow crops for income and to grow crops in rotation to maximise soil nutrients
9	grow crops like legumes (lupins) in different paddocks to give the soil nutrients (nitrogen) to grow better crops



Definitions above from St Joseph's PS Senior Class farmer interviews. 23/4/2012

10 agricultural production that **protects** and **renews** soil fertility

Definition from USA Sustainable Agriculture Network quoted in http://www.ecifm.rdg.ac.uk/sustainable_agriculture.htm

* Sustainability and our Farmland Environment'
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“What does sustainability mean?” by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012 sourced as sts_crops.pdf at <http://www3.sjhoptoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html>
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