

What problems does 'Sustainable farming' have here?

St Joseph's P. S. Senior Class interviewed adults to find out what problems there were to "farming sustainably" and how they were dealt with as part of their 'Sustainability and our Farmland Environment*' unit . Collating the common ideas, we found that

'Yes we can" farm sustainably despite problems of salinity, soil erosion and pests by using **salt tolerant plantings**, **low stock rates**, **minimum tillage farming**, **levelling eroding dunes**, **planting permanent pasture**, **poisoning** and **shooting pests** and **crop rotations**.

This table lists the replies, with common ideas highlighted:

<p>Salting and Seepage 15- plant saltbush and trees 16- plant trees or salt bush 17- planting Old Man Saltbush 18- plant certain trees and bushes to prevent salting 19- plant salt tolerant species such as Red Gums, Wheat grass and salt bush 20 - we have small ares of local seepage from hills , We have some trees, but try to have something growing on the hill to use the excess moisture</p>
<p>Soil erosion 1- lower stock rates 2- plant saltbush and trees & maintain organic matter in paddocks (for fertility too) 3- Minimum tillage cropping and keeping stock off the area</p>

4- eliminate wind damage by **levelling off** the dunes and **growing cover crops** on them like Veldt grass
5- dune reclamation = **levelling** of blown out hills and **sowing with cover crops** such as rye
6- **bulldoze** the hills and **plant them down to grass** and cereals to stop them blowing
7- We try to maintain soil cover . We have **permanent pasture** of lucerne and velt grass growing on fragile sandy soils that are not so suited to crop growing

pests

8 – **poisoning** and **shooting**
9- controlled with **poison** and **spot lighting**
10- control rabbits by ripping and **poisoning** them
11- crops are **sprayed** and **rotated** to prevent them
12- need to be maintained at a minimal level by controlled **baiting**
13- attempting to control vermin such as rabbits, foxes and locusts
14- we control rabbits and problem weeds as they build up to cause damage to soils, crops and pasture



Issues and solutions from St Joseph's PS Senior Class farmer interviews. 23/4/2012

* Sustainability and our Farmland Environment'
is the 2012 Lower Wimmera Environmental Education Project (a Wimmera HUB DEECD Strategic Partnership Project)
for St Joseph's PS Senior Class and Staff.

This 2012 project contributes to the Australian Year of the Farmer, the National Year of Reading and the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity.



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How to reference this page for the Science Talent Search competition –

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