



# 2011 Richland County Farm-City Week Competitions *Sustainable Agriculture*

Since 1955, the national Farm-City Council has promoted awareness of the interdependence between farms and cities. Each year, the President of the United States proclaims the week leading up to Thanksgiving as Farm-City Week, and communities across the nation celebrate the importance of agriculture and the connections between rural and urban areas.

This year, Farm-City Week will be observed November 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with National Farm-City Week, the Richland County Farm-City Committee is sponsoring a series of competitions for Richland County K-12 students. The topic for the 2011 Richland County Farm-City Week is Sustainable Agriculture.

<b>Grades</b>	<b>Competition Type</b>	<b>Prizes</b>
K-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Class Bulletin Board	Participants: \$25/class (limit first 25) 1 <sup>st</sup> place class in each grade: \$50 2 <sup>nd</sup> place class in each grade: \$30 3 <sup>rd</sup> place class in each grade: \$20 Teachers of 1 <sup>st</sup> place classes: \$50
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Individual or Team Writing	1 <sup>st</sup> place in each grade: \$50 2 <sup>nd</sup> place in each grade: \$30 3 <sup>rd</sup> place in each grade: \$20 Teachers of 1 <sup>st</sup> place winners: \$50
6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Individual or Team Poster	1 <sup>st</sup> place in each grade: \$50 2 <sup>nd</sup> place in each grade: \$30 3 <sup>rd</sup> place in each grade: \$20 Teachers of 1 <sup>st</sup> place winners: \$50
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Individual or Team Video	1 <sup>st</sup> place in each grade: \$100 2 <sup>nd</sup> place in each grade: \$75 3 <sup>rd</sup> place in each grade: \$50 Teachers of 1 <sup>st</sup> place winners: \$100
Senior Scholarship <sup>1</sup>	Individual Application	\$500 (single prize)

Please see the enclosed information for details, rules, and submission guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> This year's Senior Scholarship is sponsored by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District.



# 2011

## Richland County Farm-City Week: K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class Bulletin Board *Sustainable Agriculture*

**Eligibility:** K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes in public and private schools in Richland County and K-2<sup>nd</sup> 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 investigate sustainable farming in South Carolina by participating in one or more of the following activities (or a related activity) to learn how and why farmers care for their farmland.

- 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 composting project or other class project demonstrating a practice of sustainable agriculture
- 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. Then, create a bulletin board about your investigation demonstrating what you learned about sustainable agriculture. For example, why is it important? What does it look like? Your bulletin board may treat sustainable agriculture as a whole or focus on one or a few sustainable practices (e.g., composting).

**Rules:** Bulletin boards should be approximately 4’ x 8’ and may include any media. Because these boards may be displayed in a local gallery, when possible, please mount all materials on a backing (e.g., Kraft paper) that can be removed, transported, and re-mounted.

**Judging:** Bulletin boards will be judged on the following criteria:

- Relevance to theme (Sustainable Agriculture)
- Evidence of completion of the assignment (e.g., interviewing a farmer or visiting a farm)
- Student participation
- Creativity

**Prizes:** Each class that creates a bulletin board will receive a \$25 participation award to help cover the cost of supplies used to create the display. (Limit: first 25 classes to submit Notice of Intent.) The class with the first-place bulletin board in each grade will receive a \$50 class prize; second place will receive a \$30 class prize; and third place will receive a \$20 class prize. The teacher of the class that creates the first-place bulletin board in each grade will also receive a \$50 teacher prize.

**Timeline:**

September 23<sup>rd</sup>: submit Notice of Intent to the Richland County Farm-City Committee

October 28<sup>th</sup>: Bulletin boards should be completed

Week of October 31<sup>st</sup>: Judging (a team of judges will visit each school by appointment)

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

**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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)

Detach the portion below and post it on your bulletin board by October 28<sup>th</sup>.



2011

Richland County Farm-City Week:  
K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Bulletin Board  
*Sustainable Agriculture*

School name:

Teacher name:

Grade:

Bulletin board title:



2011  
Richland County Farm-City Week:  
K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Bulletin Board  
*Sustainable Agriculture*

**Notice of Intent (Due Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

Complete this form and return via fax, e-mail, mail, or hand-delivery 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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)

School name:

Principal:

School address:

School telephone #:

Participating Teachers (first and last names for certificates)	Grade
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

(Attach additional sheets as needed.)



# 2011

## Richland County Farm-City Week: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual or Team Writing *Sustainable Agriculture*

**Eligibility:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools in Richland County and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 investigate sustainable farming in South Carolina by participating in one or more of the following activities (or a related activity) to learn how and why farmers care for their farmland.

- 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 composting project or other class project demonstrating a practice of sustainable agriculture
- 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. After completing the investigation, produce a written entry (individually or in teams of up to five students) that explains either (1) what sustainable agriculture is and why it is important, or (2) how a specific sustainable farming practice (e.g., no-till planting or vermicomposting) benefits the soil, water, air, plants, wildlife, and/or people.

**Rules:** Entries must be the original work of an individual student or a team of up to five students. Writing should be factual, informative, and creative. Acceptable forms include essays, stories, poems, song lyrics, letters, news articles, recipes, and dramatic scripts. Submissions should not exceed five pages and must be legible. Limit three entries per teacher.

**Judging:** Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Evidence of understanding of the theme (sustainable agriculture)
- Content and technical accuracy
- Writing mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation)
- Creativity/originality

**Prizes:** The first place winner (individual or team) in each grade will receive a \$50 prize; second place will receive a \$30 prize; and third place will receive a \$20 prize. The teacher of the first place winner(s) in each grade will also receive a \$50 prize.

**Timeline:**

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

November 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: National Farm-City Week; winner notification and media opportunities for winners and participants

**To enter:** Complete and attach the Individual or Team Writing entry form to each submission (limit three submissions per teacher) and fax, mail, e-mail, or deliver them to the address provided.

**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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)



2011  
Richland County Farm-City Week:  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual or Team Writing  
*Sustainable Agriculture*

**Entry Form (Due Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>)**

Complete this form (one per submission), attach it to each submission (limit three per teacher), and return via fax, mail, e-mail, or hand-delivery 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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)

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 author(s) (first and last for certificates):

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



# 2011

## Richland County Farm-City Week: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual or Team Poster *Sustainable Agriculture*

**Eligibility:** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools in Richland County and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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 investigate sustainable farming in South Carolina by participating in one or more of the following activities (or a related activity) to learn how and why farmers care for their farmland.

- 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 composting project or other class project demonstrating a practice of sustainable agriculture
- 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. After completing the investigation, produce a poster (individually or in teams of up to five students) that demonstrates either (1) the concept of sustainable agriculture, (2) why sustainable agriculture is important, or (3) how specific sustainable farming practices benefit the soil, water, air, plants, wildlife, and/or people.

**Rules:** Entries must be the original work of an individual student or a team of up to five students. Posters should be between 8.5” x 11” and 22” x 28” and may be created with any 2-D media (markers, crayons, paint, collage, printed material, etc.). Computer software may be used to design the poster, but a hard copy of the poster must be submitted for judging (we will not print your poster for you). Limit three entries per teacher.

**Judging:** Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Evidence of understanding of the theme (sustainable agriculture)
- Aesthetic appeal
- Creativity/originality

**Prizes:** The first place winner (individual or team) in each grade will receive a \$50 prize; second place will receive a \$30 prize; and third place will receive a \$20 prize. The sponsoring teacher of the first place winner(s) in each grade will also receive a \$50 prize.

**Timeline:**

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

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

**To enter:** Complete and attach the Individual or Team Poster entry form to each submission (limit three submissions per teacher) and fax, mail, or deliver them to the address provided.

**Questions:** Direct any questions to:

Chanda L. Cooper  
Richland Soil & Water Conservation District  
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(f) 803-576-2088  
[cooperc@rcgov.us](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)



2011  
Richland County Farm-City Week:  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual or Team Poster  
*Sustainable Agriculture*

**Entry Form (Due Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>)**

Complete this form (one per submission), attach it to each submission (limit three per teacher), and return via fax, mail, or hand-delivery 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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)

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 artist(s) (first and last for certificates):

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



# 2011

## Richland County Farm-City Week: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual or Team Video *Sustainable Agriculture*

**Eligibility:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools in Richland County and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>: All submissions must be received or postmarked by this date. Note: teachers should submit only their top three entries.

November 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: 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  
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Columbia, SC 29204  
(w) 803-576-2084  
(f) 803-576-2088  
[cooperc@rcgov.us](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)



2011  
Richland County Farm-City Week:  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual or Team Video  
*Sustainable Agriculture*

**Entry Form (Due Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>)**

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:

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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)

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.



2011  
Richland County Farm-City Week:  
Senior Scholarship Application  
*Sustainable Agriculture*

*Sponsored by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District*

One senior from Richland County will be chosen to receive the \$500 Farm-City Week Scholarship. Seniors must plan to major in an agriculture- or conservation-related field at a college, university, or technical school in the United States. The scholarship will be paid to the student's college, university, or technical school upon admission.

Application packets (including this form and the attached letter of recommendation, biographical statement, and sustainable agriculture essay) must be received or postmarked by October 28<sup>th</sup> and should be submitted via fax, mail, e-mail, or hand-delivery 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](mailto:cooperc@rcgov.us)

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Student's Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Alternate Phone Number:

High School:

GPA:

College Plans (School and Major):

Letter of Recommendation: Attach one letter of recommendation from a school faculty member or administrator.

**Biographical Statement:** Attach a one-page biographical statement that introduces yourself; explains why you are interested in agriculture and/or conservation; and describes your volunteer, work, and/or extracurricular activities.

**Sustainable Agriculture Essay:** Attach an essay of no more than three pages that treats one of the following topics.

1. Imagine you are an organic farmer in Richland County. Describe a typical day in your life documenting any actions related to sustainable agriculture.
2. As the Senator representing Richland County in the SC General Assembly, write a bill to encourage, promote, and/or support sustainable agriculture in South Carolina.
3. As an agricultural economist or farm business manager, explain the costs and benefits associated with implementing sustainable agriculture practices in Richland County, or with implementing a specific sustainable agriculture practice on your farm.
4. Congratulations! You just graduated from college with a degree in agricultural engineering or a field of agricultural science concerned with soils, animal science, pest management or crop production. Describe the sustainable agriculture practices and techniques you will be working on in the next five years.