

Organic and Sustainable Farming

Sustainable, by definition, is more encompassing and “bigger picture” than Organic. It focuses on the impact of the entire business operation, environmentally, economically and socially. In many instances, sustainable farming goes above and beyond organic regulations, focusing on the long-term environmental impact rather than a specific set of farming practices for a particular product.

The three indicators of Sustainable Agriculture are:

1. Environmentally Sound
2. Economically Feasible
3. Socially Equitable



Protecting the natural landscape for the third generation.

A prime example—the application of fungicides. This common winegrowing practice inhibits the effect of mildew on the thin skins of young grape clusters. Sulfur is the Organic substance required for this process, but it is mined from the ground with all the negatives that typically apply to mining. Additionally, sulfur is applied by the pound per acre, while synthetic fungicides are applied by the ounce. Sulfur is applied 2-3 times as frequently as synthetic fungicides with all the extra tractor labor, soil compaction and fuel cost associated with that practice. In this case, it is clear that evaluating the big picture outside of the narrow view of Organic can lead to more environmental benefit in the long run.

A basic snapshot of this particular example:

	<u>Organic Approach</u>	<u>Sustainable Approach</u>
Product:	Wetable Sulfur	Procure
Acreage:	150 acres	150 acres
Man Hours/Application:	100	100
Gallons of Fuel/Application:	70	70
Application Frequency:	7-10 days	18-20 days
Average Annual Sprays (120 day season):	13	6
Annual Man Hours:	1,300	600
Annual Gallons of Fuel:	910	420

Annual Fuel Savings (not including emissions): =490 Gallons
 Annual Man Hour Savings: =700 hours



Neighboring wetlands from vineyard run-off.



Water reclamation storage.



Mushroom Farm where Clos LaChance sources organic compost to enhance the soils.