

Intensive Agriculture and Sustainability: A Farming Systems Analysis (Sustainability and the Environment)

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As globalization restructures agriculture and rural communities, the impacts of increasingly industrialized farming make interdisciplinary analyses of the linkages among the social, environmental, and economic aspects of farming ever more vital. This collection analyzes the reasons for the public's scrutiny of intensive agriculture and the prospects for sustainable farming now that concerns are mounting about food quality, manure runoff, greenhouse gases, extra-label use of antibiotics, pesticide use, and rural conflict.

Intensive Agriculture and Sustainability outlines the advantages of Farming Systems Analysis for understanding the implications of modern, intensive agriculture. This book describes some of the major environmental and social problems connected with intensive farming; outlines a framework for analyzing its sustainability; discusses key linkages among the environmental, economic, and social indicators; outlines modelling trade-offs between profitability and environmental sustainability; and then analyzes various farming systems using case studies.

The authors conclude that rural conflict and government regulation are likely to continue unless the public joins with farmers to help fund stewardship practices and stabilize farm incomes. This book will appeal to field practitioners, agricultural and environmental policy analysts, geographers, and those scholars and students who are tired of the pervasive production-oriented disciplinary focus that typifies most agricultural research.

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