Defining Sustainability for California Almonds

Sustainability requires balancing the needs of people, profit and the planet—something farmers know is essential to the long-term viability of their operations. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach to sustainability, California Almond farmers are committed to using research to evolve their practices and continuously challenging themselves to do more.

In 2005, California Almond farmers and processors created and adopted a formal definition of sustainability specific to almonds based on the three pillars of sustainability.

Socially Equitable
Economically Viable
Ecologically Sound

SUSTAINABILITY (səˈstā-nə-ˈbi-lə-tē) NOUN
Sustainable almond farming utilizes production practices that are economically viable and based upon scientific research, common sense and a respect for the environment, neighbors and employees. The result is a plentiful, healthy and safe food product.

Many are owned and operated by third- and fourth-generation farmers who live on the land and plan to pass it down to their children. Almond farmers recognize the need to carefully manage resources for current and future generations and offer continued work for their employees while protecting their families, neighbors, local communities and the environment.

OVER 90% OF CALIFORNIA ALMOND FARMS ARE FAMILY FARMS

Ideal climate is a major reason the state produces more than 80% of the world’s almond supply. But California is unique in other ways too, including its rich soils, natural resources and infrastructure, and innovative research and technology. In addition to following federal regulations protecting workers, food safety and the environment, California farmers must also abide by stringent standards set by the state that further protect people and the planet.

California is one of the few places on earth with the Mediterranean climate needed to grow almonds.

Meet the Farmers

1. United States Department of Agriculture. 2012 Agricultural Census. 2. Almond Board of California, Almond Board of Australia and INC.