



SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Our Sustainability Mission Statement: As stewards of the land, JV Smith Companies recognizes and appreciates the ground and the environment that makes growing fresh, quality produce possible. Our team is dedicated to creating a natural growing environment with the least amount of impact to the earth.

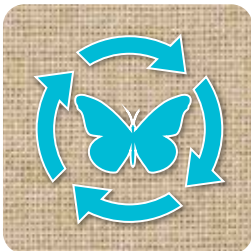


Crop Protection and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- All our crops are certified organic
- Use non-chemical IPM practices – crop rotation, build soil to increase plant pest resistance, use pest resistant seed varieties
- Provide environment for beneficial insects like syrphid flies, lacewings, big-eyed bugs and lady bugs

Economic Viability

- Watch the triple bottom line - People, Planet and Profit
- Periodically evaluate & update long-term business plan
- Respond to changes in economic, marketplace & technology conditions
- Invest in new technologies to improve efficiencies for harvest & irrigation – custom designed harvest equipment & permanent set irrigation system to reduce labor, variable speed drive pump to save energy costs



Ecosystems & Biodiversity

- We take a holistic approach to farming, California Certified Organic Farmer (CCOF)
- Build and preserve soil to sustain nutrients via crop rotation, compost, cover cropping – encourages beneficial microbes & organisms (like worms!)
- Preserve non-farmed habitat to promote biodiversity

Energy Management

- Always looking for opportunities to reduce our use of non-renewable fuels with energy efficient tractors and implements
- Perform regular equipment maintenance for peak performance & fuel efficiency
- Installed electric irrigation pumps with variable speed drive to reduce energy use
- Monitor our electricity use & employ practices that reduce energy and costs where possible



Fertilizer Management

- Compost, cover cropping and only organic fertilizers (fish emulsion, chicken pellets) are used to provide slow release of nutrients & build soil organic matter
- Soil & water testing helps us to develop an individual crop fertilizer strategy by understanding what nutrients are already present





Food Safety

- Committed to producing the safest food possible and maintaining a culture of food safety throughout our operation
- Food Safety plan updated annually by Director of Food Safety
- Regular internal & external third-party program audits
- Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement verified for all our produce

Social Accountability

- Employee wages & benefits exceed Western Growers Association industry averages
- Maintain a fair, friendly & pleasant work environment
- Job specific training, weekly on-site health & safety education
- Encourage community volunteer work & donate produce for local fundraisers
- Managers promote benefits of organic produce at local schools and host farm tours to show students where their food comes from



Soil Management and Conservation

- Focused on building soils - healthy soils promote healthy plants and a healthy environment (& less crop protection materials)
- Increase water infiltration and reduce erosion through practices that build organic matter and reduce compaction - compost, cover cropping, minimum tillage, GPS guided tractors and deep ripping only in the furrows
- Annual advanced laboratory testing to monitor soil health

Material Management and Waste Reduction

- Implemented company-wide recycling program in 2014
- Goal set to achieve Zero Waste by 2017
- Conducted waste audit to establish a baseline to measure improvement over time
- Implemented training and documented a standard operating procedure for recycling
- Installed signage and accessible recycling receptacles
- Monitoring and documenting program progress



Water Management

- Water is a precious resource and we have implemented practices and programs to conserve the amount of water we use and protect the quality of water leaving our fields
- Our permanent set sprinkler system allows us to irrigate parts of our fields separately - applying water only where it is needed
- Composting & cover cropping improve water filtration, eliminate soil & nutrient runoff
- The winter cover cropping program helps to hold nutrients in the soil, reducing the risk of running off to surface or groundwater during winter rains



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