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Reading Comprehension Passage & Questions

- ✓ Over 115 Readings! Covers all Science Topics
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Farming – Is Organic Really Better?



What is farming?

Farming or **horticulture** is the business of raising animals, growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers, and growing grains. In farming, animals are called livestock. Raising livestock can include raising sheep, cattle, pigs, and other animals for food and other products. Sheep are not only raised for food but also to make wool. Farming is important because it provides people with jobs and the food we eat.

Interesting Fact!

In the US, Agriculture employs more than 24 million workers. That is 17% of the total US workforce.

What are the different types of farming?

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Farmers use different ways to grow their crops and raise their animals. Two of these ways are called conventional farming and organic farming.

Horticulture – the practice of growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers

What is conventional farming?

A conventional farm uses seeds that scientists change in a lab to make them better. These plants grow faster, and more of the plant can be grown at a time. Also, diseases and insects do not normally bother them and the plants have sweeter fruits. They may also use special **pesticides** and fertilizers. These crops are grown for people to eat or they are grown for a special use.

What is organic farming?

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Conventional Farming vs. Organic Farming

Some people think that organic farming is better because it is healthier, the food tastes better, farmers do not use pesticides, and it is better for the planet. Others disagree but what do the facts tell us? Let's look at each individually.

- Are organics healthier? A study in the United Kingdom proved that there is no difference between the health benefits of organic and conventional crops.
- Do they taste better? A study done at the University of Uppsala in Sweden found that there was no difference in the taste using a blind test. This means the people responding didn't know where the food came from (organic farm or conventional farm); they couldn't say if one tasted better over the other.
- Do organic farmers use pesticides on their crops? Yes, they do. These pesticides are made from natural sources. Some of these pesticides have been shown to have the same problems as man-made pesticides.



Pesticide – a substance used to attract and kill pests.

Crop rotations – planting crops in different locations of the farm each year.

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A farmer spraying pesticides

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Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. Define farming based on the article?
2. What
3. If a farm produces ostrich meat, corn, and wheat. What type of farm is it?
4. What
5. Is

Extension Questions:

6. What does it mean that a study was biased? Can you think of another example where it would be difficult to get the truth based on biased studies?
7. Taking

Watch the following video to answer question 9. The video can be found by accessing the following URL or QR code below.

<https://goo.gl/jWlnA3>



8. There's

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