

Student USDA Coexistence Factsheet Worksheet

Using the USDA Coexistence Factsheet article, compare the following crop sectors using this diagram. Determine how they are different.

Certified Organic	Conventional	Biotechnology

How are the three crop sectors alike or what do they have in common?

USDA Coexistence Factsheets Biotech Farming

What is coexistence?	
How do you define biotech farming?	
What is the science behind biotech?	
How was breeding done in the past to change the genetic makeup of seeds?	
What is the USDA's role in biotech farming?	
What is the FDA and EPA's role in biotech farming?	
What percentage of cotton, soybeans and corn planted in the US was biotech in 1996?	
What are the major uses for biotech crops?	
What is identity preservation (IP)?	
What does coexistence mean for biotech farmers?	
How has the use of biotech crops helped farmers?	
What are some future opportunities for biotech farming?	
How could biotechnology help people with peanut allergies?	
What biotech crop could help improve the health of people in developing countries?	

USDA Coexistence Factsheets Conventional Farming

What is coexistence?	
How do you define conventional farming?	
Why is conventional breeding done?	
What is GE?	
Why can conventional farmers often receive premium prices?	
What is Identity Preservation (IP) crops?	
What is the importance of Identity Preserved (IP) crops?	
What is one example of an IP crop and what is unique about this crop?	
What is comingling?	
Why should IP crops not be comingled with other crops?	
What is a typical market which conventional farmed crops are used?	
Why is comingling a risk that conventional farmers must manage well?	
What are some future opportunities for conventional farmers?	

USDA Coexistence Factsheets Organic Farming

What is coexistence?	
How do you define organic farming?	
What is excluded from certified organic farming?	
Why do certified organic farmers receive premium prices?	
Why can conventional farmers often receive premium prices?	
What are organic farmers (like others) committed to?	
What does a USDA certification require from a farmer?	
Who regulates the creation, production, handling, labeling, trade and enforcement of all certified organic products?	
List three statistics that are impressive in organic marketing?	
Why is pesticide and herbicide drift a problem for an organic grower?	
How does an organic farmer improve the soil?	
What is a cover crop?	
What soil management practices do organic, conventional, and biotech farmers all employ?	
What is the prediction for organic industry in the year 2018?	
What does the future of organic farming look like?	

Student USDA Factsheet Handout

Which method of farming did the farmer (your instructor) choose and why?

Which method of farming would you personally choose for farming or do you think is the best? Why? Cite at least three reasons.

Do you think that coexistence farming methods can work? Why or why not?