

Teacher Manual

What is a farming system in the Southern High Plains?

Have students list the broad components of a Southern High Plains farming system.

Answers include:

*Social
Natural
Economic
Political*

Have students list some factors in the Southern High Plains farming system.

Possible answers to initiate discussion:

*Family issues
What do other farmers in the area do
What has been done in the area forever
Religion factors in the area
Social organizations that influence the area*

Have students list some natural resource factors present in the Southern High Plains farming systems.

Possible answers to stimulate discussion:

*Rainfall in the area
Water supplies
Erosion in the area
Weather patterns
Pests
Weeds*

Have students list some economic factors in Southern High Plains farming systems.

Possible answers to stimulate discussion:

*Loan availability
Loan costs
Cash flow
Tractor purchases
Price changes
Futures and options markets*

Have students list some political factors in Southern High Plains farming systems.

Possible answers to stimulate discussion:

*Farm bills
CRP
Trade agreements
Water policy
Environmental issues
Government price supports*

Have students describe the complexity of the Southern High Plains farming systems in a reference to communities and families in a short essay.