

Addendum

The Seven Principles of Humane Sustainable Agriculture

- Humane sustainable agriculture (HSA) entails the production of domestic animal protein and fiber on the economically prudent basis of an ecologically sound animal husbandry and the wise and appropriate use of natural resources. Such husbandry aims to enhance or at least protect the natural biodiversity of indigenous wild plant and animal species, and does not result in environmental degradation and pollution.
- HSA is socially just, respecting human rights and interests, especially those of indigenous peoples and native, peasant, and family-farm cultures and traditions, since the preservation of cultural diversity has inherent value just as do the preservation and enhancement of natural biodiversity.
- HSA recognizes the connections between farm worker health and safety, consumer health and farm animal health and well-being. It respects the right of consumers of animal protein to wholesome and healthful produce derived from animals whose basic physiological, behavioral, and social needs and requirements, which are integral to their overall health and well-being, are fully satisfied by the methods of husbandry that are practiced. The use of veterinary drugs to maintain animal health and productivity is minimized by the adoption of humane animal husbandry practices, which in turn lowers consumer health risks. Furthermore, animals' health and overall well-being are maximized rather than sacrificed to maximize productivity. Optimal productivity is linked with maximal animal welfare, which in turn is linked with the optimal carrying capacity of the environment and availability of renewable natural resources.
- HSA is bioregionally appropriate, if not autonomous, linking livestock and poultry production with ecologically sound, organic, or minimally chemical dependent crop and forage production systems and environmentally sound rangeland management, as the case may be.

- HSA does not engage in the import or export of any agricultural commodities, especially meat, wool, hides and animal feedstuffs, that have been produced at the expense of natural biodiversity and nonrenewable resources, and which undermine the rights and interests of indigenous peoples who practice sustainable, ecologically sound and socially just agriculture.
- HSA, philosophically, is based upon the aphorism that we do not inherit the land — we borrow it from our children, and it is ours only in sacred trust. This means, therefore, that HSA entails respect and reverence for all life, its philosophy being Creation- or Earth-centered. It therefore embraces concern for the rights and interests of people, animals, and the environment. By so doing, it reconciles conflicting claims and concerns with the absolute right of all life to a whole and healthy environment and to equal and fair consideration.
- HSA provides the foundation for a community of hope and of a planetary democracy, whereby world peace, justice, and the integrity of Creation may be better ensured.