

Basics of Farming

by

Eric Van Horn, Carolina Quiceno Botero, & Sarah Rasa

FADE

INT. STUDIO

An introduction to the program is explained. Hosts 1 and 2 alternate talking to make it seem like a conversation while also directing the information to the audience.

HOST 1

Ever thought about ditching the 9-to-5 grind and starting your own farm? Or maybe just launching a small garden at home? Well, today we're diving into the basics of what really matters when you start growing your own food!

HOST 2

But where do you even begin? Is it as simple as tossing a seed in the ground and waiting for the magic to happen!?

Host 2 drops a seed on the ground. Off screen, someone places a fake plant where the seed was dropped, planning for a comedic moment. Host 1 will interrupt and point to the plant that magically appeared.

HOST 2 (CONT'D)

Unfortunately not. Starting a farm actually takes a bit of know-how, planning, and—let's not forget—a lot of patience. Let's go over the basics.

Host 1 taps host 2 on the shoulder and points to the plant. Host 2 is confused.

HOST 2 (CONT'D)

Wait what? There wasn't even soil there? And that's not the right crop?

Host 1 shrugs their shoulders and both hosts regroup and continue.

HOST 2 (CONT'D)

Anyway, the first step is planning... actual planning. You have to figure out what kind of farm you want.

HOST 1

Are you growing veggies? Raising chickens? Or do you just want a small-scale, sustainable farm?

HOST 2

And lets zero in on the sustainability aspect of that for a minute. Because if you want a farm with long term success, sustainability is key!

Host 1 uses a storytelling voice for the following.

HOST 1

Alright, imagine you're a Farmer, but not just any farmer... Super Farmer! Protector of the soil and savior of the crops! You've got some cool tricks up your sleeve to farm in a way that's kind to the planet. Here's how you do it! Step 1: crop rotation!

Host 2 says their lines as if they are commenting on what host 1 is saying. Adding colorful commentary.

HOST 2

please change the menu!

HOST 1

Exactly! just like how you get bored of eating the same thing every day, crops do too! Instead of planting the same thing in the same spot forever, Super Farmer switches things up. He plants different crops in different places each year, giving the soil a chance to relax and get its nutrients back!

HOST 2

Step 2, No till farming!

Host 1 now says their line as if they are commenting on what host 2 is saying.

HOST 1

Because digging is overrated!

HOST 2

Digging holes is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of work for the soil.

(MORE)

HOST 2 (CONT'D)

When you dig up the soil, it can hurt the tiny creatures living in it and can cause erosion (fancy word for the soil sliding away). So, no-till farming is where you plant seeds without digging everything up. Super Farmer says, "No more messy digging!"

HOST 1

Step 3, cover crops!

HOST 2

Its basically plant fashion!

HOST 1

Super Farmer is super fashionable too! Instead of letting the soil just sit there looking sad, he plants special "cover crops" like clover or rye. These crops don't get harvested but cover the ground to protect it from the sun, stop weeds from being rude, and even help put nutrients back into the soil.

HOST 2

It's like giving your soil a cozy blanket.

HOST 1

Step 4, less chemicals, more love!

HOST 2

Instead of using a ton of chemicals that might hurt the environment, Super Farmer uses natural fertilizers and pest control.

HOST 1

Think of it like giving your plants a nice organic smoothie instead of junk food.

HOST 2

Step 5, water wisely!

HOST 1

Exactly! Super Farmer doesn't waste water. Super Farmer uses smart irrigation systems to give the crops just the right amount of water, not a whole ocean's worth!

(MORE)

HOST 1 (CONT'D)

Plus, he collects rainwater like it's nature's gift. No floods, no waste—just the right amount of water for a happy harvest.

HOST 2

Step 6, we are almost there...
Animals are friends, not food!

HOST 1

What about friends and food?

HOST 2

Well, yeah. But in the world of super farmer, animals are a big part of the farm team! Chickens eat pests and cows provide manure that helps plants grow!

HOST 1

Thanks cows!

HOST 2

and sometimes even ducks get involved. Everything works together like a well-oiled, eco-friendly farm machine.

HOST 1

Step 7, Farm diversity!

HOST 2

Its basically a party!

HOST 1

Super Farmer doesn't just grow one crop! He plants a variety of crops, like vegetables, grains, and flowers. It's like a farm party where everyone's invited. This helps the soil stay healthy and the ecosystem thrive.

HOST 2

And just like that, you know some basics of how to grow a sustainable farm! Its like being a farming superhero—taking care of the soil, using less chemicals, and making sure the farm can keep growing without hurting the Earth.

HOST 1

Exactly, now let's jump into our first segment, 'Eco or No?'. Where you'll have to decide if a certain practice is sustainable or not and we will explain why and award points!

A graphic is shown with the title of the segment.

INT. STUDIO

The hosts will make statements to two contestants, who answer with "Eco" if it is eco or "no" if it is not (basically true or false). The hosts will then explain the answer.

HOST 2

So we are going to tell you a statement, and you have to answer with "Eco" if it is eco-friendly, or with "no" if it is not eco friendly. We will then explain who is right and award points.

HOST 1

First question! Spraying chemical pesticides on crops is good for the earth... Eco or No?

Both contestants give their answer.

Host 2 states who was correct and then explains.

HOST 2

When we use chemical pesticides, it can hurt the environment, harm pollinators like bees, and make the soil and water unhealthy. Not so eco-friendly! So, we should look for safer, natural alternatives! Like using ladybugs to eat aphids, bugs helping bugs!

HOST 1

Next! Rotating crops to prevent soil depletion is an eco-friendly practice... Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

Eco for sure! Crop rotation is awesome because it gives the soil a break, helps keep it healthy, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. It's like giving your soil a nice spa day!

HOST 1

Next. Planting a monoculture (just one type of crop in a big field) is a sustainable practice. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

it's a No! Planting just one crop over and over can lead to problems like soil erosion, pests, and disease. It's like a party with only one guest. Instead, we want a mix of plants so the ecosystem stays happy and healthy!

HOST 1

Using plastic bags to wrap fruits and vegetables in the field. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

plastic bags are not eco-friendly because they can end up in the ocean or landfill and harm wildlife, not even mention the microplastics that can easily get in your system. We're better off using reusable options like cloth bags or avoiding plastic altogether.

HOST 1

What about using organic fertilizers instead of synthetic ones? Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

Organic fertilizers like compost or manure are great for the soil, help with water retention, and don't harm the environment.

(MORE)

HOST 2 (CONT'D)

Plus, they're packed with nutrients to help crops grow strong and healthy!

HOST 1

Next statement. Solar panels and wind turbines as power sources. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

Eco, eco, eco! Using renewable energy on farms is fantastic. Solar panels help power equipment and buildings, while wind turbines can generate electricity—both of which reduce the carbon footprint and protect our planet. It's a win-win for farming and the Earth!

HOST 1

Buying food locally is better for the environment than shipping it from far away. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

Eco! When we buy local, we reduce the carbon footprint of transporting food over long distances. Plus, we're supporting local farmers and getting fresher, tastier produce. It's like a little hug for the Earth and your taste buds!

HOST 1

leaving the soil uncovered after harvesting crops. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2

That's a No! Leaving the soil uncovered can lead to erosion, where the soil blows away. That's not good for our crops, and it makes the land less fertile. Instead, we use cover crops, mulch, or even just leave the roots in the ground to protect the soil.

(MORE)

HOST 2 (CONT'D)
It's like putting a cozy blanket on
the earth!

HOST 1
farming on land that's been
deforested. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2
Deforestation for farming is
definitely a No. Trees are super
important because they store
carbon, provide homes for wildlife,
and protect the soil. When we cut
them down to make way for farming,
it can lead to major environmental
problems.

HOST 1
Planting more trees. Eco or No?

Contestants answer.

HOST 2
Eco all the way! Trees are the
heroes of the environment. They
absorb carbon dioxide, give us
oxygen, and help fight climate
change. So, go ahead—plant more
trees and keep the Earth breathing
easy!

The points are added up and the winner is declared.

HOST 1
You both did great, but (whoever
won) scored more points!

Transition graphic is shown to end the segment.

INT. STUDIO

The hosts will introduce the next segment, which is tips for
the viewer. They will explain how the viewer can start their
own version of farming at home with minimal resources.

HOST 1
Now, obviously, not everyone has
the time, money, or resources to
start a full-fledged farm.
(MORE)

HOST 1 (CONT'D)

But that doesn't mean you can't start your own little garden or mini-farm right at home! So, we are going to teach you 10 simple tips that you can use to get started with minimal resources.

Transition graphic is shown for the segment.

HOST 2

Number 1, start seedlings in egg cartons. If you have an empty egg carton sitting around, you can use it to start your seedlings.

HOST 1

Just fill each cup with some soil, pop in a few seeds (like tomatoes, peppers, or herbs), place it by a window, and water them lightly. Then, when they start growing, you can transfer them into a bigger pot!

HOST 2

Number 2, use scraps to grow more!

HOST 1

You can use kitchen scraps to grow new plants! Potato eyes, onion scraps, or carrot tops can regrow into new vegetables!

HOST 2

For example, you can take the scraps of your green onions, put them in water by the window, and in just a few days, you'll start seeing new onions growing!

HOST 1

Tip number 3, start small with container gardening.

HOST 2

Similar to the egg carton tip, you can grow plants in almost any type of container- old pots, buckets, or even mason jars!

HOST 1

Number 4, DIY composting with kitchen wastes!

HOST 2

Composting might sound fancy, but it's actually very simple! You can start composting kitchen scraps like fruit peels, coffee grounds, and vegetable scraps right at home. You don't even need a fancy compost bin—just get a small container with a lid to collect your scraps. Once it's full, bury it in a corner of your garden, and after a few weeks, you'll have nutrient-rich compost to feed your plants!

HOST 1

Tip number 5 is to make mulch with newspaper or leaves!

HOST 2

Mulching helps your plants by keeping moisture in the soil and preventing weeds from popping up. You don't need to spend money on fancy mulch—use things you already have! Old newspapers or dry leaves are great for this. Just lay them around your plants, and they'll do the trick!

HOST 1

And tip number 6, you can pair with your DIY containers. If you don't have fertilizer on hand, you can actually use coffee grounds as fertilizer. They have nutrients such as nitrogen, that can benefit and help grow certain types of plants.

HOST 2

Tip number 7, if you are starting a small at home garden, you may not have pesticides, which are important for keeping pests and diseases away.

HOST 1

So, instead, you can actually use crushed egg shells.

(MORE)

HOST 1 (CONT'D)

Just lay them on top of your soil around your plants and due to the texture of their surface, they can keep insects from crawling all over your plants! Plus, they also provide nutrients to the soil!

HOST 2

The next tip is to create your own greenhouse for your plants. No, you don't have to spend thousands of dollars on a greenhouse, you can simply use a plastic soda bottle!

HOST 1

Yep, just clean the bottle, cut off the bottom of it, and place it over the plants. It will create a mini greenhouse effect for your plants!

HOST 2

Tip number 9. You not only have to worry about pests, but also birds! One way to deter birds from attacking your small plants is to place old CDs somewhere next to them.

HOST 1

Since the CDs are shiny, they are very effective at startling birds, therefore keeping them away from your plants!

HOST 2

And the final tip is to HAVE FUN! The best part about starting a small, at-home garden is that you get to experiment with so many different ways to grow things! Whether it's reusing everyday items or trying some of the tips that we just gave you, there is not just one single way to grow things!

Transition graphic shown to end the segment and lead into the conclusion.

The hosts will say a final closing statement to the audience.

INT. STUDIO

HOST 1

And there you have it! You've now
learned the basics of farming
(though there's a lot more to it,
of course), plus some simple,
practical tips to help you start
your very own mini farm at home!

Screen fades to a closing screen for the program.