**Sustainable Bioenergy**

**What is sustainability and why is it important?**

There are many definitions of sustainability each supporting various principals and concepts. Essentially, however, sustainability can be described as 1) a set of goals; and 2) practices and behavior that support such goals. As a set of goals sustainability describes desired conditions of the environment and the ability of humans to receive benefits directly and indirectly from it, in the present as well as in the future. As practices and behaviors, sustainability describes human actions that support and enhance the human well-being derived through interaction with the environment, and which support the ability of human society to interact with the environment in ways that discourage reduced benefits. Sustainability is important because the choices and actions of today affect everything in the future. Sound decisions at present may prevent undesirable outcomes in the future**.**

**Bioenergy Basics**

Bioenergy:

Biomass

Bioenergy Crops of the Future: Corn vs. Switchgrass