

Ecological Impacts Handout

These are some potential ecological impacts of industrial crop production:

- Soil erosion (primer section: *Soil*)
- Decrease in bee populations (primer section: *Pesticide Use*)
- Emergence of pesticide-resistant weeds (primer section: *Pesticide Use*)
- Aquatic dead zones (primer section: *Nutrient Pollution*)
- Depletion of phosphorus and fossil fuels (primer section: *Fossil Resources*)
- Depletion of groundwater (primer section: *Freshwater*)

Instructions:

Your teacher will assign your group to one of the ecological impacts above. Read the corresponding section of the primer (listed above in parentheses). Then create a flow chart answering the following questions:

1. What agricultural input(s) are involved in this impact (pesticides, fertilizers, freshwater, fossil fuels)? List as many steps as you can think of between each input and the ecological impact.
2. How can this ecological impact affect human health? List as many steps as you can think of between the ecological impact and its effects on human health.

For example, here are possible answers for the group working on the event “Decrease in bee populations”:

