

# AGRI 1011 INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE

**Credit Points** 10

**Coordinator** Ryan Mcquinn ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ryan Mcquinn/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ryan%20Mcquinn/))

**Description** This subject introduces the concepts driving current food production science in terms of universal life cycles, constraints to production and societal issues. Throughout the subject, key questions will be addressed: What are the major health benefits and potential concerns regarding the intensification of production and consumption of food? How does agricultural production affect the efficient use of resources and impact our environment? Can costs of production be reduced to meet the growing demand for food products around the globe while maintaining health and safety for consumers? What are the different types of food production systems? The subject is geared towards learners who seek a greater understanding of food systems and have a desire to learn more about issues surrounding sustainability.

**School** Science

**Discipline** Agricultural Science

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 1 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 1 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** AGRI 1004

**Restrictions**

None

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify agricultural production systems and sustainable agriculture practices.
2. Explain key principles and contemporary issues in sustainable agriculture.
3. Apply problem-solving skills to sustainable agricultural issues through the process of scientific inquiry.
4. Describe ethical considerations affecting both scientific and professional activities within sustainable agriculture.

## Subject Content

1. Sustainable Agriculture principles, challenges and goals.
2. Agricultural systems and sectors (agronomy, agricultural enterprises and digital technologies).
3. Sustainable management of natural resources.
4. Sustainable Agrifood systems.

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Numerical Problem Solving	Exercise equivalent to 120 minutes of problem solving	30	N	Individual	N
Quiz	6 quizzes of equal weighting (5% each) held in class sessions	30	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	2 hours	40	N	Individual	N

**Prescribed Texts**

- Conway G 2012. One Billion hungry: Can we feed the world, Cornell University Press, Ithaca & London

**Teaching Periods**

## Autumn (2025)

### Hawkesbury

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Ryan Mcquinn ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ryan Mcquinn/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ryan%20Mcquinn/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=AGRI1011\\_25-AUT\\_HW\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=AGRI1011_25-AUT_HW_1#subjects))