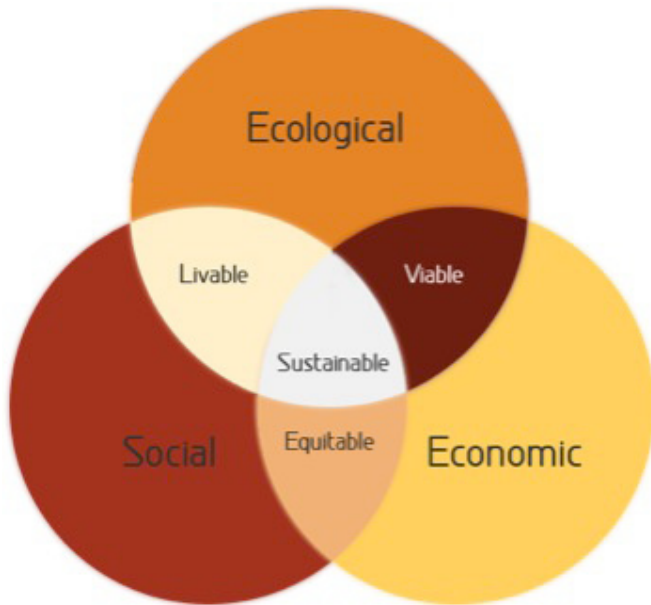


Lulu Lake in Autumn
Image courtesy of nature.org © Clive



Model for Whole Farm Planning



SOLUTIONS IN THE LAND

The Chapman Family Farm
Walworth County, Wisconsin

The Chapman Family Farm offers a unique opportunity to be a glimpse into the future of modern farming. The Chapman Family Farm is situated just north of Troy Center, WI between three major Midwestern hubs: Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago. It is about five miles away from Interstate 43 and the US highway system. This location enables many connections to the Midwestern food system and easy access to its points of interest.

Learning from past agricultural practices and embracing new technologies, this farm will be a leader in responsible land stewardship. Methods employed on the farm will harness the power of the land and work in partnership with nature. These practices will include using multiple revenue streams including small, high-value fields and multi-functional landscapes; alternative valuing of labor and attention to positive environmental impacts. The farm will neither be a burden on the land or the family. As such, growing and landscaping practices will be low maintenance and sustainable.

Cost-saving measures will be implemented on the farm that are financially and environmentally sustainable. The farm exchange program will be used to offset maintenance and labor costs. The farm will also generate most of its inputs instead of relying on artificial ones. Seed will be saved from one season to another. Compost and cover crops offer supplemental soil nutrients from season to season, and soil building techniques should offset the need for as many inputs.

Adequate federal funding (over 5 billion USD) is available for conservation programs, and much of this allocated funding goes unused. Local and state conservation programs include local land conservancies such as The Geneva Lake Conservancy and Kettle Moraine Land Trust. Walworth County in partnership with the state of Wisconsin offers a modest tax credit to farmers participating in its Farmland Preservation Program.

The Chapman family has deep roots in the area. Nearby lands have been farmed for four generations, and the farm itself was handed down from Larry Chapman's father. The family's goal is a self-sustaining lifestyle, reliant on the land and natural resources. The Chapman family wishes to use the farm to build community and family relationships, as well as fostering a connection between people and the land.