



Sim Farm:

School Edition

Currently Out of Print



IN A NUTSHELL

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Cost: \$44.95

SUBJECTS

Economics
Science
Social Studies

This program provides a computer simulation of the particulars of managing a modern farm. Students can select geographical regions, crops to be grown, terrain, and otherwise control the difficulty of the program. The materials take into account the variables of technology, plant types, weather, prices, and other factors. The package includes software, teacher's guide, and a 140-page user's manual which includes instruction in the use of the program, reference information on specific crops and on farming in general, a glossary and index. The teacher's guide provides background information, "Jumping In" questions for discussions, objectives for specific simulations, recommended off-computer learning, worksheets, connections to interdisciplinary teaching, and suggested enrichment activities. Guides are illustrated with screens from the program to help students work through the sessions.

Grade Level	10 & up
Length	CD-ROM
Date Published	1993

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"A well-produced program. The quality of learning will depend upon the skill with which the facilitator can coordinate users and program."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Helps students understand the farmer's perspective.	Does not provide option of alternative farm technologies.
	Depth	Addresses different concepts such as economics, weather, soil nutrient levels.	Weak on interactions between agriculture and wildlife.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Incorporates critical thinking skills, analysis, long-term planning, handling range of possible solutions and options.	
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Program is multidisciplinary.	Program could be very frustrating for those not familiar with farming. Learner is only given aerial view of farm.
	Usability	Provides technical support. Program can be used repeatedly using different variables for different experiences.	

“The concepts involved to set up a farm are a little too confusing for younger students to grasp... Visual presentation was mediocre.”

“...May provide an experience that is as close to real life as an urban user may get.”