**SMART WORDS**

These are definitions of words as you might see them used in agronomy.

- **ADAPTATION** Process by which an organism changes to be better suited to its environment.

- **AEROSOLS** Suspension of solid particles or liquid drops in the air. Aerosols can be naturally occurring or made by people.

- **AGRICULTURE** The science, art, and practice of raising crops and livestock.

- **AGROECOSYSTEM** Ecosystem that has been modified by inputs of fertilizers, pesticides, energy, and human labor to produce food, fiber, and shelter. Plants and animals selected for specific traits are components of agroecosystems.

- **AGRONOMIST** Person who studies and improves soil and plants and helps farmers produce more sustainable crops.

- **AGRONOMY** The science of soil and plants to help farmers produce more sustainable crops.

- **ALFISOL** A soil order. Soils formed under deciduous trees. Can be good for crops.

- **ANDISOL** A soil order. Soils formed from volcanic ash. Can be used for crops and pastures.

- **ANNUAL** Plants that complete their life cycle in a single year.

- **AQUIFER** Natural underground body of water that is often used to supply water for agricultural use.

- **ARID** Dry, like a desert.

- **ARIDISOL** A soil order. Soils formed under desert conditions. Can be used for rangeland and crops if irrigated.

- **ATMOSPHERE** Blanket of gases that surrounds Earth or another planet.

- **BACTERIA** Single-celled microorganisms that can be found almost everywhere. They can be beneficial or harmful.

- **BAGASSE** Dry pulp, or residue, that remains after extracting the juice from sugarcane and similar plants. Used to make paper and as fuel to generate electricity.

- **BIOCHEMISTRY** The study of chemical characteristics and processes of living organisms.

- **BIOENERGY** Renewable fuel source contained in plants and other organic materials.

- **BIOLOGY** The study of living organisms.

- **BIOmass** Organic material coming from living or recently living plants, animals, or other organisms. Can be used to make fuel.

- **BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY** Wide range of procedures and techniques to modify living organisms for human purposes. Some techniques, like breeding plants, have been used for thousands of years.

- **BLACK WATER** Water polluted with animal or human waste. Not suitable to be re-used to irrigate crops or lawns.

- **BLOCKY** A soil structure. Soil particles are arranged into shapes that resemble small cubes with sharp or rounded edges.

- **BREEDING** Producing new forms of plants and animals by genetic changes in order to improve them.

- **BROMIDE** Chemical compound that includes bromine and behaves a lot like nitrates in fertilizers.

- **BROWN STEM ROT** A fungal disease that causes stems to rot.

- **Bt COTTON** A genetically engineered cotton that includes a gene from *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a natural soil bacterium that produces proteins that kill certain insects.