



AGXPERIENCE

When Nature Gets Weird: Making Sustainability Decisions in Unexpected Situations

Student Directions

1. Review your scenario. Your task is to create a realistic, creative, agriculture-based solution to the challenge presented. There is no right answer. Have fun!
2. Build your Solution
 - a. Use experience from tours, conversations with peers/industry.
 - b. Incorporate the keyword and have fun with it. Let's see how many of your peers notice.
3. Ask industry professionals on Tuesday specific questions to strengthen your solution

Guiding Questions (use if your group gets stuck):

1. What do you already know about this situation?
2. What information would make this decision easier?
3. Who needs to be on board for this to work?
4. What tradeoffs are unavoidable?
5. How would we know if this solution is working?



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The Beavers Took Over

The Problem: A group of beavers has built dams throughout a working landscape, flooding cropland, changing stream flow, and creating new wetlands.

Your Challenge: How do you respond when wildlife “implements conservation” for you?

Your Proposed Solution:

(Use the space below to outline your approach)

Innovation Challenge:

What’s a creative, unexpected, or unconventional way to move this situation forward?



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The Creek Migration

The Problem: After several intense storms, a creek has slowly shifted its course and now cuts through productive land.

Your Challenge: Is the creek a crick in the neck or a blessing in disguise? What solutions do you have for mitigating the unwanted consequences of creek's migration?

Your Proposed Solution:

(Use the space below to outline your approach)

Innovation Challenge:

What's a creative, unexpected, or unconventional way to move this situation forward?



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The Fence Line Feud

The Problem: Your neighbor, also a landowner, focuses on whatever means necessary to have high production yields. However, his tactics are drifting over the fenceline to conservation focused fields. This boundary is causing tension between you.

Your Challenge: How do you create a solution when sustainability stops at the fence line?

Your Proposed Solution:

(Use the space below to outline your approach)

Innovation Challenge:

What's a creative, unexpected, or unconventional way to move this situation forward?



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The Accidental Prairie

The Problem: A field left unmanaged for a few years has turned into a diverse plant community. Some call it a mistake. Others call it progress.

Your Challenge: How do you decide whether to “fix” something that’s working unexpectedly?

Your Proposed Solution:

(Use the space below to outline your approach)

Innovation Challenge:

What’s a creative, unexpected, or unconventional way to move this situation forward?



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The Grant That Nobody Wanted

The Problem: Funding is available for a conservation project, but participation is low because the paperwork, rules, or optics feel overwhelming.

Your Challenge: How do you design sustainability so people actually want in?

Your Proposed Solution:

(Use the space below to outline your approach)

Innovation Challenge:

What's a creative, unexpected, or unconventional way to move this situation forward?



The Legacy Land Story

The Problem: A landowner says, "I want this place to be better than I found it, but I also want to sleep at night financially."

Your Challenge: How do you make sustainability feel achievable, not overwhelming?

Your Proposed Solution:

(Use the space below to outline your approach)

Innovation Challenge:

What's a creative, unexpected, or unconventional way to move this situation forward?