Table 2. Qualitative indicators of a sustainable agriculture system developed for the Southern SARE Planning Grant – *Focusing on the Future of Sustainable Agriculture in Georgia*.

Profitability

Generates profits over the long-term

Maximizes farmer/rancher control over crops and prices

Supports a family at a standard of living that includes health care, education, and vacations

 Minimizes reliance on government subsidies

 Has a succession plan

Environmental stewardship

Builds and maintains soil organic carbon to level appropriate for soil and climate

Prevents soil erosion

Balances nutrient inputs and outputs

 Maintains clean water

Maximizes water conservation

Minimizes dependence on non-renewable resource fuels and products

Minimizes use of toxic substances

Uses integrated pest management practices

Maximizes crop rotation

Encourages diversity of plant varieties and/or livestock breeds

Encourages diversity of plants and animals within the landscape

Minimizes land under agricultural production

 Minimizes air pollution problems such as odors, dust, and greenhouse gasses

Minimizes solid waste generation

Quality of life for farmers, ranchers, farm workers, and their community

 Allows time for family, hobbies, and/or community participation

Provides safe, nutritious food, fiber, and/or biomass energy

Treats farm workers well

Treats animals humanely

Increases the surrounding communities’ economic and civic well-being, i.e. provides the capacity for the community to support local schools, houses of worship, or other community institutions

 Contributes to the scenic beauty of community

 Contributes to farming/ranching being seen as respected professions

 Encourages involvement of the next generation