Lesson 3 Vocabulary

Terms and Definitions

**Aquaculture:** The raising of aquatic plants and animals for human use or

consumption.

**Biological Pest Control:** The use of certain organisms by humans to eliminate or control pests.

**Compost:** A mixture of decomposing organic matter, such as manure and rotting plants that is used as fertilizer and soil conditioner.

**Desertification:** The process by which human activity or climatic changes make arid or semiarid areas more desert-like.

**Diet:** The type and amount of food that a person eats.

**Domesticated:** Describes organisms that have been bred and managed for human use.

**Erosion:** A process in which the materials of Earth’s surface are loosened, dissolved, or worn away and transport from one place to another by a natural agent, such as wind, water, ice, or gravity.

**Famine:** Widespread malnutrition and starvation in an area due to a shortage of food, usually caused by a catastrophic event.

**Genetic Engineering:** A technology in which the genome of a living cell is modified for

**Green Revolution:** A large increase in crop production in developing countries achieved by the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and high-yield crop varieties.

**Livestock:** Domesticated animals that are raised to be used on a farm or ranch or to be sold for profit.

**Malnutrition:** A disorder of nutrition that results when a person does not consume enough of each of the nutrients that are needed by the human body.

**Monoculture:** The cultivation of a single crop in a given area.

**Overharvesting:** Catching or removing from a population more organisms than the population can replace.

**Ruminant:** A cud-chewing mammal that has a three- or four- chambered stomach; examples include sheep, goats, and cattle.

**Salinization:** The accumulation of salts in the soil.

**Topsoil:** The surface layer of the soil, which is usually richer in organic matter than the subsoil is.

**Yield:** The amount of crops produced per unit medical or industrial use.

**GMO: Genetically Modified Organism:** An organism whose genome has been altered by the techniques of genetic engineering so that it’s DNA contains one or more genes not normally found there.