

CULTIVATING SUCCESS™

sustainable small farms education



Program at a Glance

The Cultivating Success™ Program offers a series of courses in Idaho & Washington to provide beginning and existing farmers with the planning and decision-making tools, production skills and support necessary to develop a sustainable small acreage farm or ranch.

Cultivating Success™ connects students with farmers & introduces them to real world situations through a community-based, experiential approach.

Program partners:

University of Idaho
Extension

WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

RURALroots
healthy food healthy communities

Cultivating Success™ Courses:

Overview Module

- Sustainable Small Farming & Ranching

Sustainable Production Module

- Sustainable Livestock Production
- Organic Gardening and Farming
- Organic Farming Practicum
- Ecological Soil Management

Business Module

- Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Sustainable Food Systems Module

- Science, Society and Sustainable Food Systems
- Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems
- World Agricultural Systems

Farm Based Learning Module

- Academic On-Farm Internship
- On-Farm Mentorship

Cultivating Success Certificate Options

- *Academic Certificate of Completion in Small Acreage Farming and Ranching*
- *Community Member Certificate in Cultivating Success: Small Farming and Ranching (Level I or Level II)*

Course Locations

- **Idaho:** Boise, Bonners Ferry, Caldwell, Grangeville, Kamiah, Moscow, Orofino, Plummer, Pocatello, Sandpoint, Twin Falls
- **Washington:** Bellingham, Bremerton, Brush Prairie, Burlington, Cathlamet, Colville, Everett, Friday Harbor, Lynden, Mt. Vernon, Omak, Pasco, Port Angeles, Port Hadlock, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Pullman, Puyallup, Shelton, Spokane, Tumwater, Renton, Rice, Wenatchee

Number of participants 2001-2008: 2645

- Including 146 Latino and/or Hmong farmers

Instructors trained since 2001: 78

Farmer mentors certified since 2001:

- 8 farm sites in ID and WA offering CS on-farm apprenticeships
 - GreenTree Naturals, ID
 - Maple K Farm, WA
 - Moffett's Organics, WA
 - Quillisascut Farm, WA
 - Riley Creek Blueberry Farm, ID
 - Skylines Farm Sheep & Wool, ID
 - University of Idaho Student Organic Farm
 - Washington State University Organic Farm
- 1 Site under development
 - Pine Stump Farms, WA

Funds generated since 2000:

P2020	1998-2001	200,000
HECG	2001-2004	248,000
SARE (R&E)	2003-2006	97,000
SARE PDP	2003-2005	98,000
HECG '04	2004-2007	287,000
RMA-Education	2004-2005	150,000
RMA-Research	2004-2006	213,000
SARE (R&E)	2005-2007	144,000
WCRME	2005-2006	40,000
RMA-Education	2005-2006	150,000
RMA-Research	2005-2008	503,000
WSARE PDP	2008-2010	29,000
HECG	2008-2011	250,000
FSA	2009	+ 15,000

Total before match: \$2,424,000

2008 Program Highlights

Course participants in 2008: 499

44 Instructors and Farmer Mentors trained in 2008

4 New Course Locations in Washington and Idaho

Milestones in 2008:

- Provide a new Farm Based Learning Module which includes a more traditional academic internship and a more flexible mentorship option
- Offer Level I and Level II Certificates of Proficiency in Small Farming & Ranching
- Completed a 3-year HECG to develop courses online and a course on Sustainable Livestock Production

Marketing and outreach in 2008:

- Cultivating Success™ Program presented to audiences at the Washington Tilth Producers Annual Conference, the Montana Organic Association, and the Women in Agriculture national conference



New & ongoing projects in 2008

- *USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant:* expanding on-farm educational experiences on university farms, evaluating interdisciplinary and field based undergraduate learning in food and agricultural systems, and development of a UI senior level capstone course on sustainable food & agriculture systems
- *Risk Management Agency Education Grant:* expanding and improving course offerings in sustainable farming and agricultural entrepreneurship to include more whole farm planning, risk management considerations and evaluation of a planned or existing farm business.
- *Risk Management Agency Research Grant:* researching, translating, piloting and evaluating approaches for offering Cultivating Success™ educational programs to Hmong and Latino audiences.
- *Western SARE Professional Development Grant:* continuing to offer the Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems course to agricultural professionals; determining the mid-long-range impacts of the course on past participants, and continued training and networking of CS instructors.
- *Western SARE Research and Extension Grant:* Using farmer and rancher input to develop and implement experiential education opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and evaluating these experiences using a series of 9 case studies to document results.



Project sponsors:

