



What is Cultivating Success?

Cultivating Success is a unique community-based **education program** offered through Washington State University and University of Idaho with the goal of increasing the number and fostering the success of sustainable small farms and ranches. The program offers a series of courses that can be taken individually or for a Certificate of Completion in *Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching*.

How do I learn more about the program or find courses available in my region?

Please visit our website:
cultivatingsuccess.org

Or contact the Program Coordinator
in your state:

Contact Information for WA:
Michel Wiman
(509) 663--8181 x 235
mbrockington@wsu.edu

Contact Information for ID:
Amanda Snyder
(208) 885-2049
amsnyder@uidaho.edu

Additional
Cultivating Success
courses may be available
in your region!

On-Farm Apprenticeships
(Certified farms in WA and ID)

Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching
(Several locations in WA and ID)

Agricultural Entrepreneurship
(Several locations in WA and ID)

**Science, Society and Sustainable
Food Systems** (Pullman/Moscow)

**Field Analysis of
Sustainable Food Systems**
(Online w/ 1-week field component)

World Agricultural Systems
(Pullman and online)

Organic Gardening & Farming
(Pullman and online)

Organic Farming Practicum (Pullman)

Ecological Soil Management
(Pullman and online)

**Sustainable Small Acreage
Livestock Production**
(Several locations in WA and ID)



Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems

An Explorative, Experiential
Learning Opportunity

CULTIVATING SUCCESS
sustainable small farms education

WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
World Class. Face to Face.


University of Idaho
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

RURALroots
healthy food healthy communities

Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems is...

...a weeklong immersion field course that exposes students to multiple aspects of our food systems, using participatory and experiential learning techniques.

Participants visit farms, processors, and marketing venues to research agrifood systems and assess sustainability using a learning systems approach. Past students include academic students, agency and non-profit staff, farmers and community members.

Students will experience...

- Direct interaction with farmers, food business managers, agricultural professionals, faculty and other students who share expertise and interest in food systems and sustainability
- Working in an investigative framework to analyze the characteristics, impacts, and sustainability of the agricultural, processing, distribution and marketing practices observed.
- Formulating research questions and using interdisciplinary research methods to define, assess and interpret factors that contribute to greater sustainability.
- Analyzing the factors that go into agrifood system decision-making at multiple scales

This course made possible by:

U of Idaho - Dept. of PSES
 U of Idaho Cooperative Extension
 WSU Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences
 WSU Dept. of Community and Rural Sociology
 WSU Small Farms Program, WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, and grants from *USDA's Higher Education Challenge Grant Program* and *Western SARE*

Regional Focus of Course:

March 2009

Wenatchee & Royal City area, WA

March 2007, 2008

Snohomish & Skagit Counties, WA

August 2005

Spokane & Moses Lake areas, WA

August 2004

Lewiston, Pullman/Moscow, & Moses Lake regions of WA & ID

August 2003

Pullman/Moscow, Prosser regions of WA & ID



Sites Visited:

Our sites have ranged from very small one-acre farms surrounded by suburban homes, to 15,000 acre dryland grain and ranching operations, to conventional and organic dairies and orchards. We have visited farmer co-op marketing organizations, large multinational grain purchasing organizations, grass-fed beef operations, a regional bakery, organically certified artisan creamery, potato processing and packing plants, vegetable operations going to wholesalers and to direct markets, and many others too!

This course focuses on student inquiry, observation, and interaction with the owners/managers of field sites related to agricultural and food systems. With guidance from a multi-disciplinary faculty team, students work intensively in teams to research and analyze agrifood systems. It can be challenging at times, since there are no 'right answers' but part of the course's exhilaration is that students create and refine criteria during the course, find that their own ideas are challenged, and clearly see systems connections.

The course was originally developed and taught collaboratively by faculty from Iowa State University, Dordt College (IA), the University of Minnesota, and the University of Nebraska using a week-long immersion experience visiting a variety of farms and natural settings. It has been offered many times now in the region surrounding the intersection of these three states.

At WSU and UI, we have teamed up to extend this same participatory teaching approach to our undergraduate and graduate students, as well as community members in WA and ID. We have also extended our scope to beyond the "farm gate" - such that we now include processing, transportation, and marketing, and teach it under the title of: ***Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems.***

For more information contact

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<http://classes.css.wsu.edu/soils445/>