

THE FIELD

If you care about good food, small farms, and local solutions to the emerging food and energy crisis, or just want to be involved with growing plants, then explore a career through sustainable food and farming. There is a strong interest today in knowing where our food comes from and how it is produced. Students in this major become knowledgeable agricultural practitioners who can help find sustainable solutions for local and global agricultural issues.

THE MAJOR

The sustainable food and farming major is our “traditional” agriculture major. Students acquire a basic knowledge of both plant and soil science along with training in specific agricultural techniques. The major offers a degree of flexibility in designing a personal program of study, allowing students to focus on specific crop production, small business management, produce marketing, or animal husbandry. Our program carries on a proud tradition by offering a two-year professional education leading to an associate of science degree designed to prepare students for a career managing the complexities of operating a farm-based business.

FACILITIES

The Cold Spring Orchard Research and Educational Center in Belchertown is the primary location for fruit tree and small fruit research and a valuable educational resource for students. The 215-acre facility provides students an opportunity to learn agricultural techniques and management practices associated with modern tree-fruit and small-fruit production and storage.

The 358-acre Crops and Animal Research and Education Farm in South Deerfield conducts research on ethnic and other vegetable crops, agronomic and bioenergy crops, organic agriculture, and pasture. The farm includes a student-run CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) project. The new 40-acre Agricultural Learning Center (ALC), within walking distance of campus, will serve as a living classroom for UMass students interested in learning about agriculture.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The employment outlook for our graduates is very positive, with 100 percent employment and opportunities that are as varied as the industry. Some students entering the field today go back to individual family farms, which make up 86 percent of the two million farms in the country. Many pursue specific interests in sustainable or organic agriculture. Other opportunities exist with food processing companies, government agencies, agricultural associations, or commodity cooperatives. Students enrolled in production courses visit farm operations and facilities. Stockbridge students gain valuable experience and build professional contacts through internships, job fairs, and industry association events.

INDUSTRY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Endowments and organizations provide scholarships for those interested in agriculture as a career. The Clinton Roberts Foundation contributed \$15,000 for students in this major; Mr. Roberts was a 1930 graduate of Stockbridge. The Stockbridge School also is involved in an endeavor called the Beginning Farmer Initiative, a collaboration of land-grant and private organizations, which will help new and prospective farmers network with others already in operation in the Northeast. Learn more about the industry through professional organizations such as the New England Vegetable and Berry Grower's Association, the Massachusetts Fruit Growers Association, the Northeast Organic Farming Association, and the New England Small Farm Institute.

RECOMMENDED TWO-YEAR COURSE SEQUENCE:

FIRST SEMESTER

STOCKSCH 105	Soils
STOCKSCH 108	Introductory Botany
STOCKSCH 192F	First Year Seminar
STOCKSCH 300	Deciduous Orchard Science (odd years)
STOCKSCH	Sustainable Soil and Crop Management
SUSFD ELECTIVES	Advisor Approved

THIRD SEMESTER

MATH	Based on Placement Exam
STOCKSCH 113	Introductory Plant Pathology Lab
STOCKSCH 305	Small Fruit Production (even years)
STOCKSCH 315	Greenhouse Management
SUSFD ELECTIVES	Advisor Approved

SECOND SEMESTER

STOCKSCH 101	Insects and Related Forms
STOCKSCH 104	Plant Nutrients
STOCKSCH 111	Introductory Plant Pathology
STOCKSCH 198F	Internship
SUSFD ELECTIVES	Advisor Approved

FOURTH SEMESTER

ENGLWRIT 111/112	Based on Placement Exam
STOCKSCH 320	Organic Vegetable Production
SUSFD ELECTIVES	Advisor Approved

SAMPLE SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING ELECTIVES

ANIMLSCI 103	Introductory Animal Management
STOCKSCH 265	Sustainable Agriculture
STOCKSCH 280	Herbs, Spices and Medicinal Plants
STOCKSCH 310	Principles of Weed Management
STOCKSCH 120	Organic Farming and Gardening
STOCKSCH 398G	Greenhouse Practicum
RES-ECON 262	Environmental Economics
ANIMSCI 332	Basic Animal Nutrition and Feeding

THE STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

The Stockbridge School is unique in that its students have all the advantages of being members of the larger UMass Amherst community and the College of Natural Sciences while keeping the close student-faculty relationships of a small school. Students can be involved in a broad range of activities, including clubs, intramural sports, and residential activities. Stockbridge faculty members teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, participate in research, and are highly trained professionals. Stockbridge is a small school with big opportunities.

Levi Stockbridge, who was the university's first professor of agriculture and its fifth president, pioneered "Learning by Doing," a concept that combines classroom lectures with practical experiences. We follow his philosophy to this day.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

The College of Natural Sciences unites the life, environmental, computational, and physical sciences on campus. Students take advantage of a range of inquiry-based classroom and laboratory experiences, hands-on undergraduate research opportunities, multidisciplinary and cross-departmental education and research initiatives, and a variety of science student organizations. In addition, they are encouraged to develop strong written and oral communication skills, as well as leadership and problem-solving abilities.

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