

Resources Available:

Internet
Research from organizations
Student interest
Networking
E-organic

Resources needed:

Clearinghouse access-user friendly
Clarification
Financial Help
Free information (have to pay for lots of databases)
Access to more data

Resources Needed:

Institutional support: People, dollars, respect, validity of this field
Integrate into “mainstream” curricula and programs (hort, ecology, biology, natural science, health/med/vet)
Introductory text
Credible references-more science behind practices, more research \$\$
Space/land: practical farming & research, Hoophouses etc, animals
Organic certification outreach, organic system planning help, record keeping, boilerplate samples and templates
Farmers vs academic applications
Education at various levels-community college

What is sustainable agriculture:

Difficult to define
Action sustainable forever without stopping
Sustain by feeding everyone on the planet
Value-deeply connected to food, land, community
Taking care of and nurturing the soil
Maintaining local connections/resources
Minimizing travel of inputs/outputs
Doesn't deplete non-renewable resources
Good for people, land, plants, and animals
Needs to be productive
Farmers and consumers share risks
Maintains a human population in the rural landscape
Way of life
Social, economic, and environmental aspects all in balance
Overused, sometimes used to delegitimize the concept
Caring for the future of the environment
Biodiversity

Who are we teaching and why?

University students, graduate students, certificate students-how to farm hands on
Our children
Consumers-preschool through adults
Reconnect people to food sources
Urban farmers/community members
Minority/underserved to obtain local food
Dairy farmers-to use biological pest control
“Unlocking the food”

Who are we training and why?

Immigrants, bankers, lenders, insurance agents, ag students, beginning farmers
HS students
People with land
Health care professionals, processors, foundations/philanthropists, funding
agencies, government, pessimists
Elected officials, women, administrators, unemployed, consumers, people seeking
new careers
Anyone/everyone

Why

Build support
Lack of knowledge
Feed communities
Feed themselves
Quality of health and environment
It's the “right” thing to do
Part of the culture
Because they have the land
To be more like Europe
Everyone interacts with ag and food

*Need to more about sustainable ag: Bankers, lenders, insurance agents, elected
officials, administrators, ag professions, researchers, NRCS/FSA

Student farms:

University of MN: cornucopia market: plan years production
Short on interns, long on students

Iowa State:

Faculty advisor, undergrads and sustainable ag students, get involved for various
reasons-want to learn, interested in food, various backgrounds-conventional ag, no
qualifications to participate

Montana:

School farm is a 2 acre vegetable farm, but most farms are large acreage of small grains, needs budget analysis

Marshalltown

Incubator formed-new farmers of all ages who don't want to farm corn & beans

Immigrant training (many former swift meat packing workers)

Market locally

Chickens, grapes, hogs

MSU

Long standing student farm <10 years

Base in community-consumer base

10 acres (4 in production, 1/2 hoop house)

4-yr students-paid/volunteer

Self-sustaining: funded through:

Certified-for credit-one year, whole operation non credit program (\$7400/student)

Sell through CSA (48 weeks, 20 week summer)

Dorms (salad greens)

Farm stand

Produce brings in \$125,000

Washington State:

3 acre organic farm

student run

Dairy, veg,

CSA-60 shares

Field days

Community engagement

Access to research

Institution gets some produce

Internship vs student run farm

Student farm-decision making

Motivation-person on internship

Internship paid, but 60 hrs/week

Ways of learning and knowing:

Music/arts/visual

Experience

Research & reading

Listening-learning from expert

Hands on

Group-brainstorming, dialogue

Tests

Inherited/generations

Multiple communication styles

Writing-story, play
Through mistakes
Travel

Experiential

Intuitive/have a sense
Fun/play
Multicultural-should be inclusive
Curiosity driven
Ecological
Humility of teachers
Kinesthetic (touch/hands)
Telling stories
Nurturing

Failing

Intellectually
Spiritual
Instinct
Mimicking nature
Observing
Qualitative/quantitative research
Tradition
Internet/electronic

Alternative teaching & learning methods

Hands-on experience early in programs before beginning academics

- Pre-enrollment or preinternship

- Dunk-tank method

- Ag boot camp

- Learn what you don't know before

Preconference intensives on current issues

Farmers as teachers

Involve urban ag settings-students going to schools as teachers/facilitators

Case studies: (Oregon state)

- Grad students case study trough program of practical application

- How research was relevant from beginning

- Interviewing farmers to see how research fits

Decision cases

- Used as educational tools to understand complex problems

- Open ended problems with no easy answer

Cartoon format publications for non-english speakers or for different issues-start a farm in the city, non-traditional farmer

Program successes

MSU Student organic farm

- Provides sales: csa/farmstand/dorms

Teaching program-certificate program

Self funded

U of I Champaign-Urbana: soil ecology

Publications in scientific journals and in larger community

Will Allen-urban farms

Inner city-educating about agriculture

ATTRA

Resources for farmers and educators

Center for rural affairs

Developing more farmers

SAWG

LSP