

Western Piedmont Community College



Sustainable Agriculture Program

Program Overview

- Degree
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Entrepreneurial and technical training for environmentally sound small farm management or agricultural business
- Certificates
 - Sustainable Livestock Management
 - Sustainable Crop Production



Areas of Expertise

- Small fruit and vegetable production
- Herbal medicines
- Alternative crops
- Heritage breed livestock
- Value added products- animal fiber, tinctures, salves, honey
- Alternative practices
- Edible landscaping



Facilities

- Rostan Horticulture Center
- Greenhouses
- Lath house
- Off-grid homestead
- Community garden
- Hoop house
- “Tractor” fields
- Rotational Pastures



Major Successes

- Sustainable Agriculture program at the Community College
- Constructing the off-grid farm to implement sustainable principles
- Animal Science at the Community College level
- Collaborations with regional and national organizations
 - HENHOUSE Coalition
 - Organic Growers' School
 - Other Community Colleges



Lessons Learned

- Trying to farm in a bureaucracy is a challenge
 - Farming is dynamic, flexible, spontaneous and experimental
- Continuity of farming in a semester-based system
 - Lab technicians
 - Work study students

Challenges

- Livestock issues
 - Security, health and care
- Food Safety
 - Handling, processing and selling products from the farm
- Limitations as a state agency
 - Umstead Act



Looking to the Future

- Cataloging agricultural resources available in the community
- Opening a dialog for community-based buying, selling and sharing of resources/ equipment
- Incubator farm
- Connecting young, aspiring farmers with experienced farmers
 - Farmland preservation
 - Farming knowledge preservation

Contact

- Western Piedmont Community College
 - 828-438-6000
- Meagan Roberts
 - mroberts@wpcc.edu
 - 828-448-3562
- Chip Hope
 - chope@wpcc.edu
 - 282-448-3554

