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

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