

Organic Farmer Training Program

Student Organic Farm

Michigan State University



The Organic Farmer Training Program was developed to address the increasing need for small-scale organic growers. Individuals who wish to use local food systems to promote sustainability are good candidates for this program, including: *New and Beginning Farmers, Urban and Community Farmers and Gardeners, Educators, Those Interested in Sustainable Agriculture*

Students engage in the management of SOF gardens and field production for the farm's primary markets, including a 48 week CSA, a 6 month on campus farm stand and sales to campus dining services.

We prepare graduates to operate their own farm or community food system endeavor. Graduates will be qualified to run small-scale farms, work closely with existing farmers, and be advocates of local food systems based on first-hand experience with local organic production.

What does the OFTP have to offer?

- One full growing season of experience operating a certified organic farm
- Management of passive solar greenhouses for cold climate year-round production
- A certificate in Organic Farming from MSU Student Organic Farm and the Department of Horticulture
- Connections to a local, regional, national and global network of people active in the sustainable agriculture movement
- Access and exposure to a variety of job opportunities, conferences and organizations
- Knowledge and skills in:
 - *Soil & Fertility Management*
 - *Compost Production & Use*
 - *Insect, Disease & Weed Management*
 - *Vegetable & Fruit Production*
 - *Flower & Herb Production*
 - *Crop Planning & Scheduling*
 - *Harvest & Post Harvest Handling*
 - *Transplant Production*
 - *Passive Solar Greenhouse Management*
 - *Direct and Wholesale Marketing*

We are now accepting applications for our 2010 cohort!

For more information...

www.msuorganicfarm.org

(517) 230.7987

msufarm@msu.edu