

# Courses in Sustainable Food Production at M State Fergus Falls

**Principles of Sustainability** – This course is a study of sustainability utilizing the principles of permaculture and holistic resource management. Meets MNTC Goal Area 10 People and the Environment.

**Farm Ecology** – This course will provide an analysis of natural ecosystem sustainability, relative to farms and food production. Nutrient cycling, energy flows, biodiversity and population control will be covered.

**Artisan Food and Value-added Agriculture** – This course introduces students to a variety of artisan food crafts and the evolving trend of gastropreneurism. Students will investigate a variety of value-added agricultural enterprises.

**Forage and Crop Systems** – This course introduces students to sustainable soil fertility management practices and strategies, such as cover cropping, crop rotation, conservation tillage and cultivation, compost production and use, and animal stacking. The course will also cover the foundations of plant science and forage plant identification.

**Practical Farm Skills** – This course prepares students for the evaluation and practice of safe tractor and agricultural equipment operation. The proper techniques for the maintenance of agricultural equipment will be discussed. Students will learn livestock husbandry, including fencing and animal handling.

**Grass-based Livestock Systems** – This course presents the foundations of animal science and the principles of grazing for multi-species animal systems.

**Sociology of Agriculture** – The central theme of this course is to understand the institutions and processes critical to farm success. Students will utilize sociological perspectives to study the many aspects of a local food system. Meets MNTC Goal Area 5.

**Farm Marketing and Management** – This course is an introduction to concepts, strategies and technology for farm planning, economic accounting systems, and marketing techniques.

**Internship** – The Sustainable Food Production Internship is supervised employment of students that extends classroom learning to the farm and relates to the students' educational or occupational goal. Students must complete the 26 SFP program credits to enroll.

## Course instructors

**Mark Boen**, MA. Owner, Bluebird Gardens, 100-acre vegetable farm serving Western Minnesota.

**Ryan Pesch**, MURP. Owner, Lida Farm, providing vegetables through direct market and CSA. Regional Extension Educator, Community Economics.

**Kent Solberg**, MS. Owner, Seven Pines Farm and Fence, grass-based, integrated livestock and dairy farm.

**Sue Wika**, PhD. Owner, Paradox Farm, grass-based livestock farm. Sociologist at M State Fergus Falls.

**Tom Prieve**, DVM. Food animal veterinarian and farmer. Equine science instructor at M State Fergus Falls.