

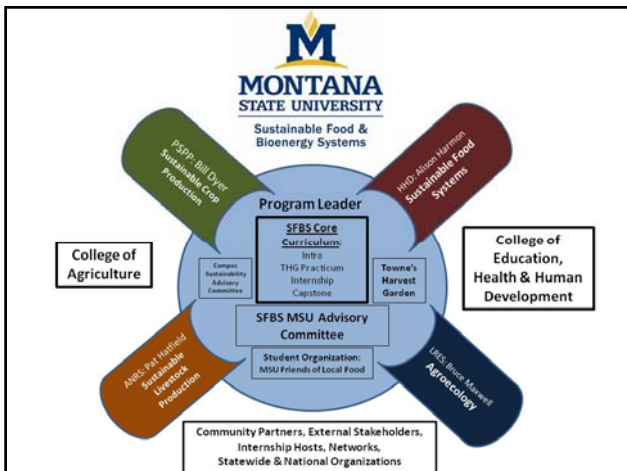
Towne's Harvest Practicum at Montana State University: The Added Value of Field-Based Learning on a Campus Farm

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Pre/Post Survey 2009-2013

- Student Characteristics
- Career Goals
- Views of Field-based learning
- Mixing Academic Backgrounds
- Skills and Knowledge
- Professional Development

Student Characteristics

- 10% Non-traditional or returning students
- Caucasian
- 50% male/ 50% female
- Not typically raised on farm or ranch with some exceptions

Impact Career Goals

- About 50% want to be small scale producers prior to practicum; 30% after.
- Interested in sustainability.
- Want to promote healthful food.
- Want to support communities.
- Want to operate greenhouses.
- Generally idealist before and after.
- Learn how to make a living; business skills.
- Gain appreciation for work involved.

Views on Field-Based Learning

- High level of student interaction
- Cooperation, responsibility, accountability.
- Hands-on; tactile; enjoyable
- Part of maintaining classroom
- Real life situations; Real world; practical
- Managing a system
- Varied academic experiences
- Unstructured; scheduling difficult; weather unpredictable

Mixing Academic Backgrounds

- Like-minded; positive attitudes
- Variety of experiences
- Diversity and different ideas, viewpoints
- Collaborative learning
- Communication important
- Lack of common understanding
- More explanation needed
- Varied work ethic

Skills & Knowledge Development

PRE

- Most: Food safety, Garden Maintenance
- Least: IPM, CSA, Irrigation, Farm Planning

POST

- Most: Post-Harvest Handling, CSA, Food Safety, Garden Maintenance, Food Production, Marketing
- Least: IPM, Irrigation, Composting
- MOST IMPORTANT: Farm Planning; Running a Successful Operation

Professional Development

PRE (importance)

- Project planning, conflict resolution, project implementation, Ethical Responsibility, Systems Thinking, Problem Solving, Professionalism

POST (developed)

- Customer service, Initiative, Ethical Responsibility, Leadership, Team Work, Networking, Systems Thinking

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