Bringing agriculture into the ODeL environment: Challenges and opportunities

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Washington State



Agricultural Diversity







Livestock Integrated Agriculture

Novel Emerging Crops Buckwheat Quinoa

















Students working with Farmers





How do we get ODel students

comparable hands-on experiential learning in

agriculture?



Individual on-farm activities •Course 1: Organic Farming and Gardening



Group experiments •Course 2: Introduction to Agroecology



Blended learning

 Course 3: Field Analysis of Sustainable Agriculture

Course 1: Organic Farming and Gardening

- Activity 1: Blind taste test
- Activity 2: Evaluating Soil Quality
- Activity 3: On-farm Interview

Activity 1: Blind Taste Test

- The purpose of this activity is to teach students how to conduct a blind taste test, often a new experience for undergraduate students not yet trained in food science.
- Organic vs Conventional
- Two food products have to be the same fruit, vegetable, or food product



Activity 1: Blind Taste Test

- One student designed separate taste tests for broccoli, apples and milk
- Another tested carrots and tomatoes
- A third tested red leaf lettuce, apples and bananas



Activity 2: Evaluating Soil Quality

 The purpose of this activity is to teach simple procedures for assessing soil quality



Activity 3: On-farm interview

 The purpose of this activity is to give students the opportunity to visit a farm, conduct a thorough interview with a farmer, and see firsthand some of the practices that have been topics throughout the duration of the course.



Course 2: Agroecology

 Designed as a junior-level, introductory agroecology course and integrates basic principles of ecology with current issues in agricultural systems







Course 2: Agroecology

- Each student conducts their own lab activity at home
- Students are divided into groups that will study the relationships between spring barley and an individual crop species.

Course 2: Agroecology

Group	Keystone Species	Intercrop Species
1	Spring barley	Clover
2	Spring barley	Medic
3	Spring barley	Alfalfa
4	Spring barley	Buckwheat
5	Spring barley	Oats
6	Spring barley	Bunching Onions
7	Spring barley	Radishes

Intercropping Experiments





Course 3: Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems

• An intensive, experiential course Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems integrates online discussions with field visits to farms, food processing, distribution and marketing facilities to investigate and develop an understanding and analysis of issues and relationships for sustainable food and farming systems

Course 3: Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems

• The key component of the course for all participants is a required, week-long, inperson immersion field experience













Thank you !

Questions?



