

WHY URBAN FARMS?

The Forsyth Cooperative Extension Urban Farm School is for individuals who want to learn more about urban food production and market gardening. Future course offerings include landscape gardening, aquaponics-hydroponics, and value added product development.

Small urban farms can improve food security for Winston-Salem neighborhoods and provide opportunities for families to increase profits through produce sales and helping them save on the family food budget.

Farming and growing food is an intricate science, that requires farmers to wear many different hats, including being a carpenter, an electrician, a plumber, a canner and a pickler. In addition, farmers must know about irrigation techniques, animal husbandry and beekeeping. These skills are useful, profitable and can be applied in other areas of the local community.

The benefits of urban agriculture in a community do not stop there. Urban agriculture can boost property values and promote community engagement. It can also be part of an effective crime-prevention strategy, by rehabilitating and using underutilized community space and increasing "eyes on the street" economies.

Urban agriculture also benefits the environment. It provides green spaces in urban areas and can provide ecological and environmental benefits, such as preventing storm water runoff and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Why Urban Farms?

- 1. Improve Access to Healthy Food**
- 2. Improve Economic Health**
- 3. Workforce Training**
- 4. Job Development**
- 5. Revitalize Communities**
- 6. Improved Environmental Conditions**

Lecture and lab classes meet once a week over a 12 week period. Lecture classes cover the science principles of growing vegetables, business planning, marketing, budgeting, network development, etc. Lab classes will be hands on projects where students develop the skills needed to be successful in Market Gardening by designing and implementing garden beds to grow their produce. Students are expected to spend additional lab time 2-3 more times per week to carry out projects.

For more information about our Urban Agriculture training programs contact Cooperative Extension Agent; Mary Jac Brennan and/or Urban Agriculture Program Assistant Tembila Covington at 336.703.2850. You can also reach them by email at maryjac_brennan@ncsu.edu or covingt@forsyth.cc

