SMALL FARMING

HALT 2321

Course Syllabus

Rene' McCracken-Instructor
e-mail: rmccracken@ntcc.edu

Small Farming HALT 2321
Spring, 2020 8 wk hybrid

Mrs. Rene' McCracken
Director of Agriculture, Instructor
Office: AG 112 Elizabeth Whatley Ag Complex
Phone: 903-434-8267
Email: rmccracken@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	8 to 10 am	8 to 10 am	8 to 10 am	8 to 10 am	9 to noon	Various

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description:
Instruction in small farming techniques with emphasis on horticulture science including comprehensive and profitable guidelines. Topics include herbs, fruit, nut and vegetable crops. This course also includes a study and application of a whole farm systems approach to production techniques and best management practices for goods produced on small farms including: vegetables, grasses, flowers, herbs, grains, poultry, meat and dairy animals. Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Two hours of lecture and two hours of lab each week. (Spring)
No assigned text. The proposals and assignments will be taken from class PowerPoint's, workbooks and class notes:
Textbooks (all will be made available through blackboard):
Reference Text (not required to purchase): ***Building a Backyard Homestead***

Student Learning Objectives:
The student should be able to:

- Identify major physical and biological factors that affect crops.
- Utilize innovative production techniques for small farming operation.
- Demonstrate creative marketing techniques for small farming operations.
- Design production and profitable small farming operations.

Local Course Goals Application:
This course is designed to provide students in agriculture an opportunity to learn, plan and to manage the components of the NTCC Sustainable Market Farm unit including: livestock, pasture, soil, facilities, marketing, financing and equipment. The NTCC Sustainable Market Farm will be utilized to apply garden design developed in class through group projects and assignments. In addition, this semester students will select and help to coordinate and manage a small egg layer flock, and meat goat production does. Lastly, this course utilizes greenhouse, actual lab time in a twelve acre garden, farm safety, and farm equipment including the learning of properly using tractors and implements in the production of small farm products to manage, maintain and operate the NTCC Sustainable Market Garden.

Grading:

Grades will be computed as follows:

(3) Presentation Proposals:	60%
(2) Assignments – Case Studies or field trips	20%
Class Participation: (8 weeks, 16 classes)	20%

The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade.

Points	Grade
90-100	A
80- 89	B
70- 79	C
60- 69	D
BELOW 59%	F

Presentation Proposals:

There will be 3 presentations accounting for 60% of your overall grade. Format can be powerpoint, educational poster or infographic. All will be presented in class. Each proposal will receive a grade from the class as well as from the instructor that will be added together for their total grade for each proposal.

Mapping out the Farm Proposal

This proposal project can be completed in powerpoint or on posterboard. Project is to map out the current NTCC Sustainable Market Farm. Utilizing google earth to create actual footprint of existing farm. Illustrations will be graded on creativity and neatness and ease of utilization and impact to deliver clear image to audience. Projects must be presented in class.

PR Presentation for NTCC's Sustainable Market Farm

Each student will design a marketing proposal for the NTCC's Sustainable Market Farm. Methods of advertising, cross-promotion, media releases and fliers to be presented in class.

Small Farm Project Proposal: Alternative Enterprise

Each student will utilize the knowledge gained in the class to select and present a new sustainable enterprise to be added to the NTCC Sustainable Market Farm. The project grade will be based on effort, creativity and sustainability of the alternative enterprise. This project will be counted as your final for the course.

Field trips or Case Studies:

There will be at least two field trips or case study assignments on area sustainable agriculture farm businesses. Students will be expected to complete a case study or review of the field trip and each will be graded on content and grammar. Case studies or Field Trips will account for 20% of student's overall grade.

Class Participation:

Class participation is based on attendance, classroom discussion, and participation and will account for 20% of the students overall grade. Class attendance is required. Since this course is an 8 week course, missing class will definitely negatively affect your grade as well as completing course objectives. If you have more than 1 <u>unexcused</u> absence, you should consult with me about your grade. Anyone who

wishes to withdraw from class must take the responsibility to formally drop with the Registrar; otherwise a failing grade will be given.

ADA Statement
It is the policy of Northeast Texas Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the Northeast Texas Community College Catalog or Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY
"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. **NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook.**"

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction to Small Farming
- Systems approach to starting, planning and operating a small farm.
- Evaluation of resources, financial management, and evaluating and acquiring resources
- Small Farmers best tools, apps and organization groups
- *Field Trip: Sustainable Ag Working Group Conference or Case Study 1: Polyface Farms*

Week 2: Livestock and poultry production on small farms
- Meat Goat Production
- Poultry – small flock, pastured production
- Feeder pig management

Week 3: Gardening with animals
- Introduction, coordination, selection and planning the home vegetable and herb garden
- Garden design in ground, management and production of garden vegetables and herbs
- In companion planting and with co-grazing and incorporation of livestock.
- Farm marketing and selection for a profit
- *Field trip or Case Study 2: Other sustainable operations for profit.*

Week 4: Orchards, Vineyards and fruit tree guilds
- Backyard Fruits, Nut, Other alternative product production,
- *Project Presentation 1: Mapping Out the Farm*

Week 5: On-Farm Education
- Agri-tourism and the farm: coordinating and management of early spring garden
- Farmers market coordination and implementation
- *PR for NTCC's Small Farm - Proposal*

Week 7: Small Farming and Profitability
- Harvest and preservation and marketing of small farm goods
- Selling and pricing farm goods

Week 8: New Farm Alternatives
- *Project Presentation 2: New alternative enterprise proposal*
- Proposal to add to NTCC Sustainable Market Farm.

Assignment #1

Open, review and print out this page of the syllabus for Small Farming.
Turn in this page for your first assignment grade.
Deadline to turn in will be the second full class day.

Student Name: _____

Major:_____

Purpose for taking this course:

_____

_____

Aspect you enjoy most about agriculture and farming?

_____

_____

Open and review the syllabus for small farming. Print out this page and complete and sign it to turn in the first class day. This will be your first assignment grade.

YES - I have reviewed the course syllabus and agree to the terms laid out in it.

_____   _____
Student name and ID   Date