The OEFFA-Kenyon Certificate Program in Ecological Agriculture provides students the chance to develop intellectual skills and practical knowledge regarding our food and farming system. Through an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach, students will begin to develop:

♦ An understanding of the complex nature of agroecosystems;
♦ Critical analysis of the social, political, and economic institutions in which the food and farming system is embedded;
♦ The capacity for analysis that includes the interplay of values, responsibility, and the achievement of environmental and social goals.

Make a lasting impact on:
...Your campus,
...The earth,
...Your community,
...Yourself!

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Growing a New Crop of Organic Farmers

The Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA) and Kenyon College have teamed together to offer students an innovative structure for pursuing their interests in ecological agriculture. The Ecological Agriculture Certificate program is an interdisciplinary undertaking grounded in the liberal arts. Through formal coursework, and on-farm summer internships, under the guidance of Kenyon faculty and skillful farmers, students will develop their knowledge base and gain practical experience in sustainable farming. Kenyon students should contact Dr. Howard Sacks, Director of Kenyon’s Rural Life Center, to initiate the process of entering the program. Students and host farmers should register for OEFFA’s apprenticeship program at www.oeffa.org/apprentice.php.

For Students
To earn a Certificate in Ecological Agriculture, you must complete three relevant courses and undertake a 10-week summer internship on a farm which uses ecological production methods. These two core elements will be enhanced by additional program components, including participation in workshops and conferences. As a student in the program, you will be eligible to be named an OEFFA Campus Fellow, a position which can provide support for you to undertake work related to the food system on campus and foster your development as a leader.

To apply for the program, you need to identify a Kenyon faculty member who will serve as your Ecological Agriculture Certificate Program advisor. Together, your professor and you will select relevant courses that will form the core of your program of study. You will submit a proposal outlining your curricular plans and aspirations in the Program. During the summer of 2007 or 2008, you should complete a 10-week farm internship. OEFFA will facilitate this placement, utilizing its Apprenticeship Program. Students will earn $2500 during their internship and have a housing allowance, if needed.

For Farmers
Helping to grow the next generation of ecological farmers is one of the most important and satisfying jobs you will ever have. Farm apprenticeships are a time honored tradition that can benefit both the farmer and the student. Host farmers should be prepared to spend time with interns providing instruction, discussing farming methods, and constructing learning opportunities. You must be available to attend one orientation meeting that will give you tools to provide an effective educational experience. In addition to having extra helping hands, host farmers will also receive a stipend in acknowledgment of the important role they play in training new ecological farmers.

For Faculty
Advisors are needed for students in the program. You’ll be expected to help students plan their course of study, meet with them occasionally during their farm internship, and review their internship report. You will receive a stipend in return for your careful supervision of students.