

THE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY FARM

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THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
DEAN, DIV. OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PROGRAM

11-24-71

Members of the Evergreen community, particularly students and faculty in the Environmental Design program, have shown a strong desire to create an organic farm. There have been several meetings held at which ideas have been generated and developed. At this point, we, "the farm group", are submitting a request for the use of the property and building facilities at the corner of Lewis and Simmons roads. This land was a small farm prior to the development of The Evergreen State College. A boundary survey, included in this proposal, has been completed.

The Evergreen community farm is to be an organic farm modeled after the Santa Cruz and the J.I. Rodale experimental farms. These are both classical examples of working experimental farms. Organic means that no chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used and that the machinery is muscle-powered (animal and/or human) and/or a non-polluting form of energy.

SCOPE

Because the production of food is the very basis of human existence and because any agricultural endeavor involves altering the natural environment, this farm is a vital experiment for our program that is concerned with designing in harmony with the environment. The prime consideration of organic farming is sound ecological planning, i.e. altering the natural environment constructively. For example, it is necessary to conserve proper soil fauna

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through composting to maintain the health and productivity of the soil. Environmental study and design will be one of the main responsibilities and learning experiences of the farm group.

PURPOSE

The farm is intended to serve as a learning resource area where new ideas and skills can be developed. Improved methods for farming organically, such as alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, can be explored. Initially, the farm project will be limited to basic research and building projects - soil and vegetation surveys, repairs to or removal of existing structures, land-use studies. As additional information is gathered and as skills develop, the farm and people and projects will expand beyond the basics of farming into areas such as new insect resistant strains of crops. The farm has long range potentials for studies in future years when more land can be put into production, animals can be obtained, new structures can be erected and flowers can be grown.

GOVERNANCE

Governance of the farm project will be by general consensus, or collective opinion, of the farm community. This form is adopted since the farm will be run as a community. The people, i.e. community, making the decisions will be those putting time and energy into the project and who have a working knowledge of the farm. This form of governance, rather than by committee, will facilitate the involvement of all members of the farm community in the decision making processes - a valuable learning experience - and consequently increase the knowledge base for these decisions. It will eliminate communication

problems through group fragmentation; the knowledge isolation that results will be removed. All activities will be posted in order to insure that any interested member of the college community may participate. The Olympia community will serve as an important resource area. Since the farm is a part of the college, the farm group will be held directly accountable to The Evergreen State College administration, faculty and students.

PELIMINARY SCHEDULE

I) ECOLOGICAL PLANNING

Develop a land-use plan consisting of (a) soil survey, (b) land survey of boundaries and contours (one foot intervals), (c) location and condition of buildings and other structures, (d) water drainage, (e) catalog of plant life and wildlife habitat types. This information will be cataloged by overlay maps patterned after Ian McHarg's techniques described in Design with Nature. These studies will be used as our reference for land-use decisions, dovetailing into a planting plan for spring. This plan will include a map of how the farm will look after planting (size and location of fields, crop location, type of planting style used, where other farm functions will occur). Presently, there is a contour and boundary map of the farm (included in this proposal). Soil and drainage surveys are in progress as well as an evaluation of existing structures.

II) COMPOSTING

In order to build up an adequate supply of compost by spring, a winter composting method will be started the first week of December. This includes remodeling one of the outbuildings as a compost shelter since composting must be done inside during the winter to maintain necessary heat. A garbage shredder must be constructed in order to break down large pieces of garbage to facilitate faster decomposition. Because it is already late in the year, it is imperative that we begin immediately to allow sufficient time for decomposition processes. Plans to gather organic refuse from the school are under way with Bill Kenworthy.

TACTICS SHEET FOR TECOF

What You Can Begin To Do As Part Of The Evergreen Community Farm Project

- 1) Read: We have run off a suggested list of books on organic farming. Three of them are now available at the book store in a limited supply. Ask at the desk. (The Basic Book of Organic Gardening \$1.25; Living the Good Life \$2.25; Grow Your Own \$1.75) Before we can begin farming, we have to know something about it. So start reading.
- 2) Write: Lots of places have free pamphlets, booklets, newsletters, etc. on organic farming. Explain your interest in organic farming and that outside information is welcome and needed, and see if they will share their knowledge. (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rodale Books, Inc., Environmental Action Bulletins, etc.) Or you can subscribe to one of the magazines specializing in organic farming.
- 3) Tools: The farm needs tools. Try to dig up one or two of the following - we will be needing them from now on.
 - a) Spade-D handle
 - b) Spading fork-D handle
 - c) Shovel-D handle
 - d) Shovel-long handle
 - e) Manure fork-D handle
 - f) Hoe
 - g) Rake
 - h) Hand trowel
 - i) Hand fork
 - j) Pick-Maddock
 - k) Wheel barrow
 - l) Carpentry tools-saws, hammers, nails, etc.
- 4) Compost: Separate your garbage, and get others to. Bring it to the farm or dump it in one of the specially marked Dipsy-Dumpsters. We will soon have one at the mode and one at the residence halls. Save woodash from your fireplace and bring it to the farm.

- 5) Manure: Find out where we can get free manure. We will provide a truck for hauling. Call Bruce Bulloch, 753-3332 - he will have the truck.
- 6) Furniture: Bring unwanted or unused furniture to the farmhouse so we can begin furnishing it. Anything can be used including pots, pans, or anything that craft workshops might utilize. Electric heaters are also needed.
- 7) Animals: Find out how much it would cost to buy and keep an animal for one year. Ducks, sheep, chickens, goats, etc. might be considered.
- 8) Show ups: People - Jimmy and Frida ___ will be at the farm all day long from now on and there are jobs to be done. Right now, we need to transplant from the cleared fields all of the seedlings. Contact Carolyn Dobbs, Mariel Brockway, Jimmy Kagan, Frida Habbick if you need a key to the farm for some reason.
- 9) Donations: Find companies interested in donating tools, equipment, money, information to the farm.
- 10) Outside Resources: Find people or organizations that could lead or help to run workshops.
- 11) Tell Others: Anyone from the Evergreen College community can work on the farm. It is a campus-wide project.
- 12) Questions: Ask -
 - Carolyn Dobbs
 - Phil Harding
 - Jimmy Kagan
 - Frida Habbick
 - Mariel Brockway
 - Bruce Bulloch
 - McKenzie Musick
 - Lina Compton