

## ISAT 473: Local Agriculture and Farm Internships

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### Course Description

The Local Agriculture and Farm Internship course emerged through discussions with local, small-scale farmers who are interested in working with committed, energetic JMU students, as well as through the instructors' desires to connect JMU undergraduates with local ecologies and to work toward more sustainable farming practices. This course will also focus on the ethics of food production and consumption.

This is a 4-credit hour course. It involves class contact time (one class meeting per week), various assignments described below, and hands-on farming for about 5-8+ hours of on-farm time per week, resulting in 80+ hours of on-farm labor across the semester.

Throughout the semester, the readings, discussions, assignments, and on-farm time integrate aspects of production, processing marketing, and impacts.

### Farm Time (30% of course grade):

Your completion of your minimum required hours of on-farm time accounts for 30% of your overall course grade:

80 or more hours: 30/30

75-79 hours: 25/30

70-74 hours: 20/30

65-69 hours: 15/30

60-64 hours: 10/30

50-59 hours: 0/30

below 50 hours: fail course

Negative reviews by your farmer will reduce your overall grade.

### Journal entries & Reading notes (20% of course grade)

During the semester, you complete **4 sets of journal entries & reading notes**. These are informal and are due as noted in the schedule. Each set of journal entries accounts for 5% of your course grade, thus together they comprise 20% of your final grade. Your journal entries should include:

- ongoing maintenance of your farm hours time log – hours worked on the farm and relevant brief notes (time log is available on Canvas). This farm hours log is due with each set of journal entries and should be submitted electronically.
- a separate document that includes the following:
  - an entry for each day that you work on a farm (note the date and time) that includes
    - descriptions of the kinds of work did on the farm each day
    - connections to details about the farm on which you are working (what it produces and how, throughout)
    - Q&A with your host farmers (we will provide prompts in class)
    - Integration of the 8 key questions
  - thoughts/reflections related to COURSE READINGS and the learning objectives, and how they link to the farms on which you work.

- be sure to make connections! Please follow any additional specific guidance we provide along with the readings or in class.

The quality/insight of your entries will be evaluated to determine their contribution to your journal entries grade.