



Small Farming HALT - 2321 F2F Course

Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

Instructor: Bernie Binns

Class in AGC 117

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Office	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Hours	8am – 9am	8am – 9am	8am – 9am	8am -9am	By appt	

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.

Rationale:

This course is designed to provide students in agriculture an opportunity to learn, plan and to manage the components of the NTCC Regenerative Market Farm unit including: livestock, pasture, gardens, soil, facilities, marketing, financing and equipment. The NTCC Regenerative 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, meat goat production does and Kune Kune pigs. 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 Regenerative Market Garden

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.

Grading:

Grades will be computed as follows:

(3) Presentation Proposals:	60%
(2) Assignments – Case Studies or field trips	20%
Class Participation: (labs on farm)	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 poster board. Project is to map out the current NTCC Regenerative 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 Regenerative Market Farm

Each student will design a marketing proposal for the NTCC's Regenerative 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 Regenerative enterprise to be added to the NTCC Regenerative 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 Regenerative 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 unexcused 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.

Communications: Turnaround time for email responses within 24 hours weekdays and by Monday over the weekend. *Reminder: NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college and is how I

prefer you contact me.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Students are required to participate in all classroom activities. Students are expected to be on time and ready to begin when classes start. Brain teasers or quizzes will be done in the beginning of each class period and students will only have the first 2 minutes to determine their answer. Points will be given for correct answers and no make-ups are available. Students may utilize bonus points on any one grade average but not your final grade. Student should be courteous and treat one another with respect to allow for a peaceful and effective learning environment.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC 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 request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

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: 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 Regenerative 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 Regenerative Market Farm.