



HALT 2321 – Small Farming

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

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

Instructor: Bernard Binns

Office: AGC 112

Phone: 903-434-8267

Email: bbinns@ntcc.edu

Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	7:30 AM – 8:AM
Tuesday	None
Wednesday	None
Thursday	1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Friday	None

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

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 system’s 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.

Prerequisite(s):

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify major physical and biological factors that affect crops.
2. Utilize innovative production techniques for small farming operations.
3. Demonstrate creative marketing techniques for small farming operations.
4. Design production and profitable small farming operations.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
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20%	Class participation
60%	Presentations
20%	Assignments

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Required Instructional Materials:

None Required All material will be made available.

Publisher:

ISBN Number:

Optional Instructional Materials:

N/A

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Access to a computer that has Microsoft office with Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and an internet search engine

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Basic computer literacy skills

Course Structure and Overview:

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 students proposed farm enterprise you can use the NTCC Market Farm as an example. 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 Market Farm Proposal

Each student will design a marketing proposal for their farm enterprise. 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.

Case Studies:

There will be at least two case study assignments on small agriculture farm businesses. Students will be expected to complete a case study of an existing small farm enterprise, and each will be graded on content and grammar.

Case studies will account for 20% of students' overall grade.

Class Participation:

Class participation is based on attendance, classroom discussion, and participation and will account for 20% of the student's overall grade. Class attendance is required; missing classes will affect your ability to complete the course objectives. If you have more than 3 unexcused absences, 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:

The primary method of communication will be via NTCC e-mail. I will respond to all e-mails within 24 hours during the week. E-mails on Saturday and Sunday will be returned on Monday. I also have office hours, located at the top of this document, available to meet with students.

Institutional/Course Policy:

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 randomly at the beginning of selected classes and students will only have the first 2 minutes to determine their answer. Points will be given for correct answers and no make-up is available. Students may utilize bonus points on any one grade average but not your final grade. Students should be courteous and treat one another with respect to allow for a peaceful and effective learning environment.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

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 accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. 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.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Course Schedule will be given in class and is subject to change.