

UC Davis Student Farm

Our Mission

The UC Davis Student Farm's mission is to hold a space where students can learn, practice, and model an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable agriculture and food system. The Student Farm welcomes all students to build this more equitable and just farm and food system by cultivating student initiatives, leadership, experiential learning, and inclusive communities.

Our Vision

We envision a vibrant, welcoming Student Farm, where students, staff, faculty, Patwin-Wintun and other indigenous peoples, and members of the broader community can gather to work and learn together with a commitment to developing and implementing sustainable agricultural practices and creating just food systems. We see a diverse and bountiful Student Farm where we thoughtfully steward this land and other natural resources and a place where students have a voice and where their voices are heard.

Our Values

Introduction:

At the Student Farm we hold two sets of values. The Student Farm Values guide our collective work at the Student farm. The [Leadership Values for the Student Farm](#) are those we look to as individuals taking on leadership roles at the Student Farm. We encourage those that visit, intern and work at the farm to strive towards both sets of values.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land on which the Student Farm is located. For thousands of years, the land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be on their traditional lands. [Learn more about the UC Davis Land Acknowledgement Statement here.](#)

Gratitude and Giving Back

We are grateful to be active stewards of this land that we share with others. We value its biodiverse interactive ecology, the nourishing food it provides, the human community it fosters, and the opportunities to collaborate in working and learning. From a place of abundant gratitude, we believe that it is of key importance to agricultural production to give back and donate a portion of what we grow so as to share the gifts of the land and our work with the greater community; therefore, we strive to contribute to individuals and programs in need through produce donations. Active learning and other educational opportunities are hallmarks of the culture of giving that the Student Farm hosts.

Knowledge Sharing and Experiential Learning

We call the Student Farm a learning community because learning through knowledge sharing is a priority here. We nurture the beginner's mind, value self-direction, foster the development of effective teaching styles, and recognize the inherent knowledge and life experiences that people bring to the space. We listen carefully so that we can proactively adapt instruction to learners from diverse backgrounds, identities, and prior knowledge. Experiential learning is core to our style of instruction. This means work and learning are motivated by student agency, direction, and the needs of the community and environment. Reflection, problem-solving, and iteration after successes and challenges are inherent to our learning process.

Diversity and Inclusivity

We value diversity. Having a diverse community of people and listening well to a diversity of thought and experience helps us understand ourselves and the world better. Diverse cropping systems and landscapes help us grow healthy, culturally diverse food and flowers that support the environment. Diverse income sources allow us to be resilient to market changes. We actively value and promote inclusivity, with a commitment to the [UC Davis Principles of Community](#) and to an environment where a diversity of people are welcomed and celebrated regardless of culture, background, identity, disability/ability, prior experience, or knowledge. We are dedicated to examining and challenging our own internal biases and their effects on our perception and behavior and continue to work towards systemic change within the Student Farm.

Building a Socially, Economically, and Ecologically Sustainable Food System

At the Student Farm, we aim to contribute to the building of a more just and sustainable society, both for our community here and for the world at large. We aspire to do our part in dismantling oppressive systems and in modeling a world like one in which we might hope to live in the future. We strive to work toward food equity and socioeconomic justice so that as many as possible may benefit from this land and farming operation as well as support it. We aim to steward this land and its resources for future student farmers and all the organisms that use it. We recognize that the Student Farm benefits from the natural world and the natural world has its own inherent value.

Care for Community and Well-being

With kindness, empathy, compassion, thankfulness, supportiveness, good humor, and patience, we practice agriculture. We aim to establish a healthy, productive place for people to interact with one another, build relationships, and care for the environment and for our own physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Collectivism and Work Ethic

We acknowledge our interconnectedness as we work together with each other and with nature. We strive to bring our best selves to the Student Farm to make it a better place. We value communication and collaboration among the various ongoing programs throughout the Student Farm in order to promote synergies that benefit operations and student learning. Our work ethic allows us to collaborate, be accountable, responsible, and organized, strengthen our skills and learn from our mistakes, take initiative, follow through on tasks, and aim to be our best selves.

Accessibility and Transparency

The Student Farm space and collective knowledge is accessible to a wide representation of community members on campus and off. Outreach to the campus community and beyond is essential to highlighting ongoing educational opportunities and ways to participate in programs and events. We aim to carry out decision-making and other administrative processes with the utmost transparency possible, and we welcome and solicit the involvement of affected stakeholders in the community decisions whenever possible and appropriate.