



# Sustainable Agriculture



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
University of Missouri

- > Economic Viability
- > Environmental Stewardship
- > Social Responsibility

**Come for a visit!**

To learn more about the MU Sustainable Agriculture degree program, please contact:

Jim Spain, Assistant Dean of Academic Programs

E-mail: [SpainJ@missouri.edu](mailto:SpainJ@missouri.edu)

Phone: 573-882-6452

Toll-free: 888-682-2367

To schedule a visit, e-mail: [visitcafmr@missouri.edu](mailto:visitcafmr@missouri.edu)

Visit us on the Web at:

[cafmr.missouri.edu](http://cafmr.missouri.edu)



The market for sunflower seeds includes both human and feathered consumers.

## Career Opportunities

Students who complete this program may pursue careers in a variety of fields including sales and marketing, conservation, rural and international development, community food security, and farm policy. They may also operate their own farms and produce unique, high-quality, sustainably raised agricultural products for local, national or international markets.

## Research and Internship Opportunities

Students will have many chances to gain real-world experience through research and internships. The University has an entire agricultural research farm in Mt. Vernon, Mo., dedicated to innovative practices in sustainable agriculture, ranging from pasture-based dairy systems to fruit and vegetable production. Students will also have opportunities to build relationships between Missouri's consumers and farmers through MU Extensions nationally renowned Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program.



Farmers markets are an integral part in the urban/farm link. These markets help farmers increase their incomes and provide consumers a direct connection to the people who produce their food. (USDA)



According to the USDA, there has been an almost 20 percent growth in the number of farmers markets in the U.S. in the past 12 years.

## What is Sustainable Agriculture?

**Sustainable agriculture has two key components:**

- Farming in ways that try to ensure farm profitability while taking into account the environment and community.
- Creating strong local food systems that provide all people with access to affordable and nutritious food.

**Sustainable agriculture is based on practices and principles that:**

- Satisfy our need for quality food and fiber.
- Protect the environment and our natural resources, make efficient use of nonrenewable resources, and use natural biological cycles and controls.
- Sustain and enhance the economic viability and quality of life of farm families, farm workers and rural communities.
- Promote locally and regionally based food systems.
- Ensure access to affordable and nutritious food to all people at all times.

Whether you are a new or transfer student looking for a major or minor, the Sustainable Agriculture program at MU will enable you to incorporate economic viability, environmental stewardship and social responsibility in agriculture.



The growth in consumer demand for specialty foods means even greater potential for profitable sustainable agriculture endeavors.



The opportunity to work together toward a common goal while living as stewards of the land is a motivating factor that brings families into sustainable agriculture.

## Sustainable Agriculture at MU

The Sustainable Agriculture program at the University of Missouri is unique because it offers students training in both the production and community aspects of sustainable agriculture.

It provides students a strong background in the biological, physical and social sciences and allows students to develop expertise in one of two options:

- Integrated Crop and Livestock Farming Systems
- Community Food Systems

In addition, the program includes an innovative, hands-on component that places students in an internship or international experience in sustainable agriculture.

### The Curriculum

The core curriculum includes courses in plant and animal science, environmental studies, soil science, rural sociology and agricultural economics. Students are also encouraged to take courses in other fields that are of particular interest to them.