



COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES, FORESTRY, AND AGRICULTURE

Sustainable Agriculture

UMaine's ADVANTAGE

- Opportunities for research and fieldwork
- Maine is home to the Maine Organic Farmer's Association (MOFGA), the oldest and largest farming membership organization in the country, which supports successful farm apprenticeships and farm training programs
- Maine has strong diverse agricultural systems and interest is high in local foods, farmers markets and sustainable practices

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Connect with us:
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WHY STUDY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AT UMAINE?

Farmers and consumers around the world seek approaches to food and fiber production that are more closely aligned with the principles of natural ecosystems. This movement has been spurred by widespread erosion, contamination of ground and surface water, decreasing soil fertility, and emerging information about the effects of agricultural chemicals on our bodies and in our landscapes.

UMaine's program is also the oldest sustainable agriculture program in the country, and it has been highlighted in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The University of Maine's Honors College, one of its signature programs of excellence, has formed a Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative (SFSRC). The SFSRC brings together students, faculty and community partners in an interdisciplinary approach to solving problems of food production, food distribution and hunger. The problems posed by community partners are addressed through students' honors theses, with UMaine Honors faculty and other UMaine professors serving as thesis advisers and mentors. Students with appropriate qualifications will be invited to join the Honors College and may participate in this initiative.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEGREE?

Students graduating with a degree in sustainable agriculture can find employment as a:

- Community food-based nonprofit organization employee or director
- Manager of organic or sustainable farm
- Self-employed agricultural producer
- Research technician for private and public institutions

- Sales and marketing professional for a food retailer, wholesaler, cooperative or direct marketing initiative (e.g., supermarket chain, producer cooperatives)
- Agriculture Extension agent
- U.S. Department of Agriculture staff
- Educator
- Seed production company staff

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The sustainable agriculture program at the University of Maine offers a Bachelor of Science degree that provides students with the scientific background and hands-on experience to promote farming practices that are both ecologically and economically sound.

OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM

UMaine's sustainable agriculture program emphasizes:

- Building healthy soil through crop rotations, organic soil amendments and erosion management
- Protecting water quality by reducing synthetic chemical use
- Managing pest and weed problems with integrated, ecologically sound approaches
- Increasing farm profits and income stability through diverse, community-based enterprises
- Using knowledge of scientific principles to propose and test farming practices that better mimic natural ecosystems

OUR FACULTY

Our faculty are student-centered, approachable and encouraging. They are engaged with undergraduate students and often involve them in their research programs. They are recognized experts in sustainable agriculture, in the state, nationally and internationally.

ABOUT UMAINE

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 73 countries. It currently enrolls 11,286 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. The University of Maine offers doctoral degrees in 35 fields, representing the humanities, sciences, engineering and education; master's degrees in roughly 70 disciplines; 90 undergraduate majors and academic programs; and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.

explore

Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture

*Minors in Sustainable Agriculture
Sustainable Food Systems*

Master of Science in Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences

Ph.D in Plant Science

Ecology and Environmental Sciences



OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

A complete education in sustainable agriculture requires hands-on participation in farm and farming-related activities. The program offers a variety of opportunities for on-the-farm learning, including:

- **Black Bear Food Guild (BBFG)**
The food guild is a community-supported agricultural endeavor, initiated and developed by students. They manage two acres of certified organic vegetable production and one acre under cover crop.
- **Sustainable Agriculture Enthusiasts**
A diverse group of students, faculty and staff interested in sustainable agriculture. Activities include sponsoring speakers, touring local farms, attending conferences and working with the BBFG.

– UMaine Greens

A student group working to supply the University of Maine campus with fresh, local and organic greens during the academic year.

– Field Experience

Students complete a minimum of 80 hours of practical work experience in sustainable agriculture, which is intended to put classroom learning to use in a real-life situation.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



I love learning about the world that we live in, especially when it pertains to food. As a sustainable agriculture major, I have had the opportunity to learn about many different ways to grow food and the impacts that this activity has on the environment."

— Ashley Anderson, Class of 2016, Sustainable Agriculture

