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# Creating the Sustainable Agriculture Summer Internship

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# Creating the Sustainable Agriculture Summer Internship



COLLIN MORRIS



# Early Stages



- Partnership with Duncan Reid and Linfield Office of Sustainability
- Initial vision: to create an internship program for Linfield students interested in learning more about sustainable agriculture
  - Marry experiential learning with academic research
  - Create opportunities to connect Linfield academic community with local farmers
  - Present research at a public forum

# Student Information Session



**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**



One crazy idea.  
20 interested people.  
5 spots available.



# The Program



- **June 10<sup>th</sup>- August 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **Monday: Lectures/Discussions on course material**
- **Tuesday-Thursday: Work on farms**
  - 3 people on each farm
  - One dinner a week with the farmer
- **Friday: Field Trips**
  - Field trip locations will be relevant to whatever material we are covering that week.

# Meet the Farmers



Mike Paine and family of  
“Gaining Ground Farm”



Barbara Boyer of “Gourmet Hay”

# Major Challenges



- “The Collective” losing their land
- CatConnect problems
- Securing funding
  - LCN
  - Sustainability Grant
  - ?

# Signature Themes: Relevant Coursework



- **Adaptability**
  - Helped me deal with unforeseeable obstacles
- **Maximizer**
  - Worked well with Duncan
- **Input**
  - Desire to “collect information” about an unfamiliar topic
- **Strategic**
  - We worked with a rough road map of the program from the beginning of the process
- **Relator**
  - This helped me in the interview process—able to discern who I connected with right away



# Personal Takeaways



- **Rewarding in many ways**
  - Benefit to the local community
  - Long-term benefit to the college
  - Created a job for myself
  - I get to work outside all summer
  - Something awesome to include on my resume'



*Any Questions?*