FERTILIZER USE NET RETURNS

Diagram showing the shift from maximizing production to a practical model of sustainable agricultural production in the region (Figure 4).

In the late 1990s the horticultural enterprise began transitioning to certified organic production while the rest of the farm continued with conventional practices and a degree option in ‘sustainable agriculture systems’ was added the curriculum.

This has allowed students, staff, and faculty involved with the farm’s five main income-generating enterprises to pursue the goals with flexibility, creativity, and accountability (Figure 5).

Figure 3. The horticulture enterprise, managed organically since the late 1990s, uses food waste compost as its primary soil amendment and potting medium.

Figure 5. Main farm enterprises generating income: horticulture, hops, beef cattle, goats, and value-added processing.

Figure 6. Selected indicators of farm performance and sustainability.

Figure 7. Student survey results, April, 2011. N = 28 majors and 20 non-major who worked on the farm during the academic year.