

Agricultural Arts Curriculum Overview

GRADE 2

Students plant a “Three Sisters” garden to learn about the relationship of corn, beans, and squash, and their historical significance in Native American agriculture.

GRADE 3

Harvest of the “Three Sisters” garden, shelling dry beans and corn, cooking with squash and pumpkins. Planting garden cover crop of winter rye. Introduction to poultry: students take on the daily care of the school flock of chickens. Spring planting of grains; wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, broom corn.

GRADE 4

Grain harvest, threshing, winnowing, and milling – from seed to bread. Daily care of flock of sheep and herd of goats, introduction to animal husbandry, processing of grains for animal feed and kitchen use.

GRADE 5

Further study of basic animal husbandry. Introduction to milking and dairy/food processing.

GRADE 6

Composting #1: using products from the school's farm, gardens, and kitchens; kitchen garden planting of vegetables/herbs/flowers.

GRADE 7

Harvest of kitchen garden, meal planning, cooking, food processing, seed saving. Composting #2: continued hands-on work with compost piles; study of composting processes.

GRADE 8

Beekeeping intensive: hive preparation, bee installation, bee observation, record keeping.

GRADE 9

Beekeeping as a practical art: honey harvest, beeswax processing, ointments etc. Introduction to horticulture #1: plant propagation.

GRADE 10

Introduction to horticulture #2: cultivation of trees/shrubs, seed saving, soil improvement. Soil care and management: fertility building and crop rotations.

GRADE 11

Animal husbandry intensive. Introduction to sustainable farm systems. Animals, plants and soil – a balanced relationship: study of farm livestock, specific characteristics, animal diversity for soil health. Internships.

GRADE 12

Animal husbandry intensive. Sustainable farm systems: focus on an examination of the crisis facing agriculture today. Issues affecting New England farms. Internships.