Map of the College Farm

Learn more about the College Farm at go.dickinson.edu/farm.

For more information on our certifications, please visit www.foodalliance.org and www.paorganic.org.

Download the farm's free audio walking tour.

1. Yurts: Off-Grid Solar Living
2. Livestock
3. Native Pollinator Garden
4. Production Fields
5. Compost Area
6. Greenhouses and Solar Water Heating
7. Large Solar Array
8. Barn

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Dickinson

Walking Tour

A self-guided exploration of the College Farm

Welcome to the Dickinson College Farm, a 50-acre, USDA-certified organic and Food Alliance-certified working farm and educational resource.

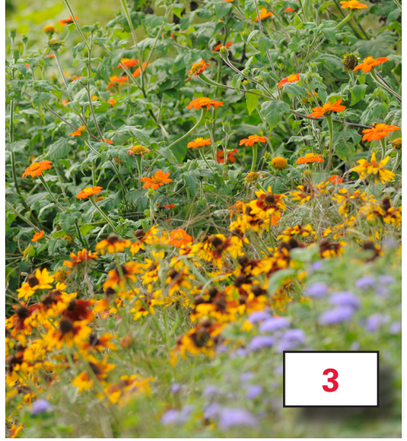
The farm provides produce to the college's Dining Hall, local community and members of the farm's Campus Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. This tour guides you to key areas of the farm and provides information about what you see. The tour is about an hour, with seven minutes per stop. A free podcast of the tour is available on iTunes U (search for Dickinson Organic Farm).

1. Yurts

- Seasonal interns have been living in the yurts since 2008.
- All of the electricity used in these buildings comes from four 195-watt solar panels located just uphill from the pollinator garden.
- Solar power is stored in a large battery bank located in the largest yurt for use in the evenings and on cloudy days.
- Yurts provide an example of simple, unconventional living structures for seasonal accommodations.

2. Livestock

- All livestock are raised on pasture. The farm manages its animals through rotational grazing, moving them regularly to maximize animal health and minimize issues resulting from overgrazing.
- The farm has sheep, laying hens, broilers, pigs and beef cows.
- All animal products are sold to the campus community.
- If you don't see animals, it is most likely because they are in a distant paddock.



3. Native Pollinator Garden

- In 2009, the College Farm added a pollinator garden as part of a long-term study with Pennsylvania State University.
- Pollinators (small insects and animals such as bumble bees and birds) move pollen from flower to flower as they feed on nectar.
- The garden is 100-by-20 feet with several outlying trees and shrubs.
- The farm uses the garden to survey the populations of native bees.
- Other efforts at sustainable land management include several similar biodiversity plantings around the farm. Among them are many bird boxes and reptile habitats aimed at enhancing and studying populations of beneficial organisms.
- Six insectary hubs are being tested as a potential method of organic pest control.

4. Production Fields

- The farm uses a total of 15 acres for crop production.
- Fields are fertilized with nitrogen-rich leguminous cover crops and compost made from Dining Hall food waste.
- Produce raised on the farm is provided to the college Dining Hall, members of a 24-week produce subscription program, the weekly downtown farmers' market and a local food bank.
- The farm maintains a healthy balance between growing crops and increasing soil fertility through crop rotation.

5. Compost Area

- The composting program was developed in 2002 and expanded in 2007.
- More than 700 pounds of food waste are composted here daily and turned into fertilizer rather than ending up in a landfill.
- A healthy population of red wiggler worms produce nutrient-rich compost in our vermicompost facility.

6. Greenhouses and Solar Water Heating

- The greenhouses allow the farm to extend its growing season into the colder months.
- The large greenhouse is heated using six solar thermal collectors.
- On cloudy days, the solar-heating system is backed up by a biodiesel-fueled boiler.
- The greenhouses also provide an environment in which students may work during the winter months.

7. Large Solar Array

- The solar array provides electricity to the barn and greenhouses.
- The panels connect to the utility through a grid-tied inverter.
- The solar array produces 5.25 kilowatts in full sun, which results in about 30 kilowatt hours per day—enough to power an average home.
- The solar-energy program reduces the amount of harmful carbon dioxide released into the air is by tens of thousands of pounds.
- The equipment was purchased in 2007 with the help of an energy harvest grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- The farm is a renewable-energy teaching center where students and community members learn about solar-energy systems.

8. Barn

- This is a traditional Pennsylvania bank barn.
- The upper barn serves as storage for supplies and hay, includes a "seed room" for seed drying and storage, and is a venue for events.

- The lower barn is the hub of the produce operation. It's also one of the pick-up points for the farm's Campus Supported Agriculture program.
- All of the drains in the floor, as well as the gutters on the barn roof, are channeled into an underground cistern. This gray water is then used to irrigate the farm's compost piles.