

**Kwantlen University Richmond Farm School**  
**Market Crop Production 2013**

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**Instructor:** Kareno Hawbolt  
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**Dates:** 64 hrs; 16 classes  
Feb 8. & 22, Mar. 8 & 22, April 5 & 18, May 2 & 30,  
June 27, July 25, Aug 22, Sept 5 & 19, Oct 3 & 17 & 31

**Course Description & Goals:**

- To gain an understanding of different models of small-scale market-oriented agriculture
- To learn the relevant field skills and concepts of market production and small farm planning
- To gain an understanding of different marketing models
- To learn both theory and practical skills relevant to crop production
- To combine in-class learning with on-farm practical hands on skill-building relevant to the time of year and the needs of the farm.

**Materials:**

There is no specific book for this course, however readings will be assigned at various times.

Highly recommended books you could buy or borrow:

Elliot Coleman: *The New Organic Grower* and *Four Season Harvest*

Steve Solomon: *Gardening When It Counts*

Robin Tunnicliffe et al: *All the Dirt*

Joel Salatin: *You Can Farm: The Enterpreneur's Guide to Start and Succeed in a Farming Business*

And many many more... Resource Sheet with topic-specific books, websites, etc will be handed out.

All (or most) lessons and class handouts will be posted on the Moodle site.

**Assignments:**

**1. Farm Case Study/Models of Agriculture - Presentations:** May 30<sup>th</sup> or Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>

Research/interview one small farm business and create a brief (10 minute) presentation (written, verbal, photos, etc) to present to the class.

This project will allow the student to focus in depth on a farm operation of their choice.

Presentations of Case Study will happen in the middle and at the end of the season, and will introduce fellow students to farms and models of agriculture in the area.

- Farm size, farm focus & model of farming, primary crops produced, markets, labour, challenges, successes.
- What makes this farm interesting to you? (unique points of interest)

**2. Crop Planning Assignment – Due: Mar 8th**

**3. Farm Journal – Due:** ongoing check-ins

- Observation
- Learning
- Experiences
- Skills – dates of planting
- Inspiration
- Projects
- Committees
- Goals
- Reflections

**4. Social Media on the farm: Farm Blog roll** – one blog post (sign-up during first class)

Social media plays a role on many small scale farms and farm educations centers. Each student is required to do one blog spot for the Sharing Farm blog. This year, the Sharing Farm is very committed to documenting what happens on the farm and sharing it with our followers. You are an important part of the farm community, and people love to hear what the “farm schoolers” are up to.

These are the 4 main assignments; there will also be assignments and readings to supplement the bi-weekly class.

**\*Throughout the months, we will go over each vegetable family according to the season, seeding, maintenance, harvesting, storage etc. This is not written on the agenda but we will be incorporating it on a weekly basis, based on the relevant timing. The intention is to combine theoretical with relevant hands-on skill building.**

### Course Schedule 2013\*

	Topic	Field Skills
Feb	<p>Intro to Market Crop – “The Farm”                      The craft of farming – “Fharma”                      The politics of farming – Food Sovereignty                      Agricultural community – Our Roots                      Principles of Organic Farming                      Models of Agriculture</p> <p>Crop Planning                      Record Keeping</p>	<p>Intro to the Sharing Farm – Site walk-around and introduction to systems</p> <p>Crop Planning                      Crop rotations                      Record Keeping</p> <p>OBSERVATION!</p>
March	<p>Factors of Successful growing                      Seeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to seed</li> <li>• How to make growing medium</li> <li>• Sourcing seed</li> </ul> <p>Tools of the Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate tools for the job</li> <li>• Scale of tool = scale of operation</li> <li>• Ergonomics of using tools</li> <li>• Care &amp; maintenance</li> </ul> <p>Choosing soil amendments                      Seed Saving Part I: Basics/Intro</p>	<p>Sourcing Seed                      Recipe for Seed Medium                      Direct Seeding &amp; Transplanting</p> <p>Appropriate choice and use of tools                      Tool maintenance</p> <p>Choosing appropriate amendment                      Volume per acre calculations</p> <p>Seed Saving Basics</p> <p>OBSERVATION!</p>
April /May	<p>Plant health &amp; Soil Fertility: troubleshooting                      Cultivation Techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rototiller</li> <li>• Walk-behind tractor</li> <li>• Large tractor implements</li> </ul> <p>Direct Seeding &amp; Transplant Care                      Weed Management Techniques                      Models of Marketing</p>	<p>Weed identification and management                      Using farm equipment                      Seeding and Transplanting</p> <p>Marketing Basics – CSA, Farmers Market, SPIN etc                      Setting up a Farm Stand</p> <p>OBSERVATION!</p>
June/July	<p>Irrigation and Water Systems: Principles and Practice                      Harvesting &amp; Processing                      4-Season Farming: winter gardening                      Organic Certification: To Certify or Not to Certify – Class Debate</p>	<p>Harvesting and Processing Techniques                      Design and set up irrigation system</p> <p>Record Keeping Certification</p> <p>OBSERVATION!</p>
August	<p>Seed Saving Part II: Harvesting                      Common Pests and Fertility</p>	<p>Harvesting techniques – wet and dry seed                      OBSERVATION!</p>

September	Cover Cropping and Green Manures Seed Saving Part III: Economics of Seed, Saving and Cleaning, Storage	Choosing and seeding cover crops Cleaning seed and seed storage OBSERVATION!
October	Propagation &/or Medicinal Herbs Review and Final Exam Presentations of Case Studies	Division of perennials, root cuttings etc Basics of herbal medicine – Plant id, wildcrafting, medicine making  OBSERVATION!

\*We will be following this schedule as much as possible, with variations due to seasonal influence and unforeseen amazing opportunities for learning that may arise. While timing may vary from this outline, all topics will be covered at some point throughout these months.

I look forward to farming with you all!