



THE FARM STUDIO

Design-Build

Why do farmers farm, given their economic adversities on top of the many frustrations and difficulties normal to farming? And always the answer is: "Love. They must do it for love."

-Wendell Berry

The Farm Studio aims to foster an understanding of how landscape architecture and agriculture can come together to form a partnership that seeks out opportunities for stewardship, sustainability, engaged learning, community and outreach. As students actively participate in the establishment phase of a new organic farm at Rutgers Gardens and plan for a future four-acre site, the studio will be a forum in which students gain a working knowledge of the fundamentals of small-scale organic farming, deepen their agricultural literacy, and explore how design meets food production in an urban setting.

The existing Student Sustainable Farm at Rutgers University was established in 1993 on a five-acre site on the Hort Farm III research farm, and is now in the process of expanding into Rutgers Gardens. Ultimately, this new site is intended to function as an outdoor classroom that will offer a sequence of interdisciplinary place-based and hands-on courses throughout the year and will be a vibrant source of local food production. Additionally, the Farm will provide the foundation for a broad spectrum of community outreach and programs, research opportunities, and entrepreneurial pursuits. With its unique location and integrative approach, the Farm will also serve as a local agrarian resource to the larger New Jersey community within which it is situated, and will speak to the agricultural legacy of Rutgers University.

The Farm Studio will research and explore opportunities for re-use and re-purposing of materials, green infrastructure, rain harvesting and composting systems. In addition to this, students will investigate ways in which the farm site can be programmed for a variety of users. We will work collaboratively with the Office of Agriculture and Urban Programs (OAUP) and Rutgers Gardens to design and build various elements of the first phase of the Farm that will help to define the future of the space, both physically and programmatically.