



## The Learning Setting

Students live on site at Merry Lea's Rieth Village, a field station that has earned the platinum LEED® rating from the U.S Green Building Council. Here, air conditioning is rarely needed due to building design and insulation, and toilets are flushed with recycled rainwater from a cistern. A wind generator rises from the middle of the central kitchen garden. This setting provides an outstanding laboratory where lectures, fieldwork and daily living are closely allied.

## For More Information

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**GOSHEN**  
COLLEGE



## The Agroecology Summer Intensive at Merry Lea



**Merry Lea**  
Environmental Learning Center  
of Goshen College

## The Agroecology Summer Intensive at Merry Lea

Students take four courses throughout the nine-week curriculum, earning 12 credits. Through labs and lectures, students learn the science behind growing food. Through nurturing vegetable gardens while living nearby, students experience the value of healthy food production systems and their relationship to surrounding ecosystems. Merry Lea's agroecology plots are situated within a patchwork of wetlands, prairies and woodlands, where it is easy to see a great blue heron while picking cucumbers.



## The Academic Experience

**Earn 12 Credits** that can be used in a variety of programs. Environmental Science students at Goshen College can fulfill Agroecology Concentration requirements. Students from other colleges can transfer the credits in consultation with their advisor.

**Academic Excellence:** Goshen College has a well-rounded, experienced faculty and is in the forefront of small liberal arts colleges with its quality Environmental Science program.

**Close interactions with faculty:** Students interact personally with science faculty in classes, labs and research activities.



**Practical experience:** Courses are integrated, practically based and provide for hands-on experience.

**Commitment to Peace and Justice:** Agroecology advances the College's commitment to raising servant leaders promoting peace and justice in the world.



## Course Descriptions

The 12- credit Agroecology Summer Intensive consists of four academic courses along with practical and experimental components:

**Vegetable Crops** – focuses on the principles of sustainable vegetable production; provides an understanding of the role of the environment in plant growth and development;

**Soil Properties and Management** – introduces the field of soil science; emphasizes scientific principles and their application to practical soil management problems;

**Agroecology** – highlights sustainable food production strategies that support local culture and the local economy; investigates the ecological impacts of manipulating natural systems to produce food, animal feed and fiber;

**Small Farm Management and Produce Marketing** – brings students into contact with successful small-scale, sustainable producers; teaches skills that contribute to successful management of small enterprises.

## Who Should Participate?

We invite participants who are eager to explore where their food comes from, desire to consume more wisely, would like to improve their gardening skills, and are interested in informed discussion about new directions in agriculture. Merry Lea's agroecology intensive will benefit students pursuing careers in a wide variety of professions, including:

- Agroforestry
- Sustainable agriculture
- Entomology
- Environmental/farm education
- Food science
- Organic gardening
- Plant pathology
- Water management education



“The principal role of education is to create [people] who are capable of doing new things.

“The second goal of education is to form minds that can be critical, can verify and not accept everything they are offered.”

—Jean Piaget



## Agroecology as a Way of Sustainable Living

Many educational systems teach a specialized, urban curriculum preparing youth for upward mobility, but often ignore the cultural and practical knowledge needed for a prosperous, post-fossil fuel world. Agroecology, with its emphasis on biological systems, is an important part of the growing effort to make human activities compatible with natural ecosystems.

### Sustainable living requires people who:

- Understand ecosystem functions
- Understand the process of agricultural production
- Understand social and economic systems
- Participate in management and decision-making processes
- Value the interests and needs of others
- Are willing to live their lives as examples of God's peace

Students will leave Merry Lea better equipped for lives of thought and purpose in their homes, communities and world.