PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR ORGANIC FARM

A focus for any members of the Evergreen or Olympia communities who are interested in learning how to become more self-sufficient. The farm will be a place to learn organic horticulture, the care of livestock, keeping of bees, spinning and natural vegetable dyeing, and weaving. The farm will also offer an opportunity for experiencing a rural setting. People who would like to pursue artistic interest such as painting, photography potting, etc., may find the farm the perfect atmosphere for such pursuits.

There will be two buildings for the arts and crafts. In addition the farm group will build a log cabin under the supervision of Helmer Stubbs spring and summer quarters of 1974. The cabin will serve primarily as a library, meeting room, and living space for the farm caretakers. The magic of an authentic log structure will attract people of all ages. Hopefully, groups such as the Weavers Guild, the various garden clubs, and school children from the public schools will be able to meet at or visit the farm site.

We will also be tying in the Evergreen Organic Farm with OVTI's Community Garden Project. Since the Evergreen Farm is going into its third planting season it should be able to serve as a model for the newer Community Garden. The various experiments and the wealth of first-hand knowledge at the farm should enable others to profit by our mistakes and share in our successes.

The farm will continue to be linked with the academic charge of the college, through contracts and coordinated studies. A brochure on the farm should be completed by fall quarter so the assets of the farm can be considered in program planning.

Two coordinated programs in the 1974/75 curriculum can make use of the farm: The Good Earth and Toward A Humane Technosphere.

FUNDING SOURCES:

Since the floor space at the farm has been used in the academic funding formula, we would expect to receive some operating budget from the academic part of campus.

S & A
$3000 for log house
Self-sufficiency of farm – sales from cut flowers, honey, vegetables, and orchard
Cisterns
Blacksmith
Eberhart blueberries
The crucial factor determining the future of human is whether people will learn to live in a healthy and ecologically responsible manner. There are many interrelated problems involved in current environmental deterioration. These problems center around population, pollution, food production, and the humane interaction of living beings. The citizens of the earth must develop the skills and lifestyles to live in the most sane and non-wasteful way possible.

Food is flesh. Food is the basis of existence. An ecologically balanced approach to agriculture is then necessary for continued survival. Nature maintains a delicate and complex equilibrium within an ecosystem. We must try to emulate nature's methods in raising food by recycling nutrients and resources, by copying nature's diversity of planting, and by encouraging the predation of pests by their natural enemies. To quote from the initial Evergreen Community Farm Proposal, "... any agricultural endeavor involves altering the natural environment. The prime consideration of organic farming is sound ecological planning, i.e. altering the natural environment constructively."

A person cannot depend on the same other concern to raise their food with no questions asked. The Evergreen State College Community Organic Farm has and can continue to be a learning resource center in the skills of survival. It is a place where people can learn how to raise their own food and create a small balanced ecosystem out of a farm. The farm can also serve as a resource in experimenting with alternative energy systems to those dependant only on fossil fuels. These systems could involve solar, methane, wind, or wood energy. The farm can be a very important link with the community in sharing resources with individuals and groups in Olympia and vicinity. These could include cooperation with OVTI's community garden project, the Sierra Club, and the Olympia garden club. The farm can be used for learning a myriad of skills such as horticulture, animal husbandry, beekeeping, spinning, and natural dyeing, weaving, blacksmithing, food preparation, food preservation (canning and freezing), and carpentry. The limit is your imagination.

The current "farm group" task force has worked out a general future plan up to and including the 1979-1980 school year. This period is divided into three two-year phases. The farm is now in its third year and has just been evaluated...
by a DTF as to its importance in the Evergreen community and how well the original proposal and goals have been adhered to. We propose that there be a process of self and possibly institutional evaluation at the end of each two year phase.

PAGE 3 cont'd

It is important that the garden be used to improve and experiment with organic methods of food production, biological pest control, companion planting, and mulching, and related areas during all phased. We consider it most important that the farm continue to be open to use and input by varied groups and programs from the Evergreen community and the community at large and that it not develop into an inflexible institution or its use be dominated by only one group or concern.
Phase I  1974-1976  academic years

We propose that in the next two years the farm will be improved and developed within the current physical boundaries. This includes the building of a log house to serve as an academic and community meeting place, a library, and living space for caretakers. We suggest that the current livestock population remain the same except for the possibility of incubating more hens and acquiring a limited number of pigs. Farm development could also include the building of a water cistern to improve irrigation and the expansion of the methane converter, currently being built next to the greenhouse, to a size which would produce a surplus methane fuel supply. The present pasture area should definitely be improved. Aside from physical developments we will encourage more skills workshops and facilities for food preservation, weaving, spinning, dyeing, knitting etc.

Phase II  1976-1978

This period will be used to set up a working model of a small self-sufficient farm. By the end of the 1978 school year the farm will be able to economically support itself or at least markedly decrease outside input of resources. This will involve developing land space to raise alfalfa and other grains to feed the livestock. The feed is currently bought from commercial sources. The sale of produce and livestock will provide income.

III-  1978-1979

Phase III  1978-1980

Many changes will have taken place on the farm by this time making specific directives difficult to foresee. However, many options for this period are presently under consideration. In this phase the farm boundaries might be broadened to allow for an increase in livestock such as more cows, pigs, acquisition of sheep or goats, possibly ducks and geese, etc. In any expansion primary consideration will be given to keeping the farm ecologically responsible as well as a self-supporting unit.
Uses: The First Millennium

Although there are infinite worthwhile activities which could make use of the farm, space limits us. Our primary concern lies in the development of an adequate learning resource where self-sufficiency skills related to organic farming can be acquired and shared with others. Without clearing any more land, a multitude of activities will be provided for in the process of further developing the quality rather than the quantity of the farm. The ongoing and proposed activities fall into five categories: I Horticulture, II Animal Husbandry, III Agronomy, IV Fruit-growing and Maintenance, V Food Processing and Preserving in the Home, VI Perennial Garden, Ethnobotany, VII Farm Economics, VIII Alternative Energy Systems, IX Carpentry, XI Bicycle Repair and XII Ecological Education.

1. The annual garden gives many people a chance to learn the principles of Horticulture. Gardening for just one season exposes a person to soil preparation, companion planting and the uses of organic fertilizers. Composting, mulching and green manure (the use of a cover crop (clover) which is tilled into the soil in the Spring) are a part of organic horticulture.

A greenhouse provides space for plant breeding. Seed selection and storage will be accomplished. Haymaking is planned also.
II In the category of Animal Husbandry, the farm has several on-going projects. There are two Guernsey cows, Khoda, 3 years old and producing milk and Frida, her heif er calf, 3 months old and growing. The basic skills and knowledge of dairying, including milking, care of cows through their breeding cycles, calving and care of young calves are necessarily learned at the farm.

Poultry raising skills are acquired through care of the hens. Chicks will be incubated also.

There is one beehive now, and plenty of room for another.

We propose the addition of a limited number of pigs to give people an opportunity to learn the related skills.

We've been offered an opportunity to learn blacksmithing.

III Gardening and land-use planning on a farm requires at least a minimal knowledge of soil science or Agronomy. When we make compost, we learn about nutrient cycles for instance. To take good care of the farm we must know about the physical and chemical nature of the soil, such as its acidity.

IV The fruit growing on the farm is just being expanded this year. In addition to a few old apple trees and a cherry tree, we have cleared an area of stumps to plant 9 more dwarf fruit trees, including apple, pear, almond, peach, apricot.

There is also a grape arbor.

Since berries grow so well in this climate, we hope to
expand our present berry patch of two rows of strawberries and
five blueberry plants. Eberhardt Blueberry Farm is donating
60 to 70 plants of a number of varieties that they propagated.
Another friend of farm is donating 100 strawberry plants. We also
hope to include other types of berries such as raspberries,
loganberries and boysenberries. Planting, grafting, pruning
and biological pest control are skills learned in fruit-growing
and maintenance.

Food preserving and storage is a vital part of organic
farming. Food harvest is for the most part seasonal so utilizing
ways to preserve foods and extend the time in which it can be used
is essential.

The constant supply of fresh milk from khoda provides an
excellent and necessary opportunity to learn how to process
cheese, cottage cheese, butter, yogurt and for festive occasions,
iceland.

The garden produce in summer and fall yields plenty of
opportunity to learn techniques in drying foods, canning and
possibly freezing.
IX. Alternative Energy Systems. The study and utilization of alternative energy systems adds a deeper dimension to the farm's overall theme of self-sufficiency. We want to see projects evolve that will aid in the need for energy for heating, -solar, wood, methane, water acquisition-cistern, and storage, and the sewage problem-olivas.

X. The garage space provides an excellent working area for bicycle repairs.

XI. Carpentry. Carpentry skills are essential to design and build needed structures on the farm. Besides the big projects (proposed house and completion of greenhouse) smaller projects must be done constantly-i.e. compost bins, shelves, repairs, etc.

XII. Farm Economics. The complications of farm economics are important for people to learn if they intend to survive going into organic farming.
VI. **Perennial Garden.** The first part of the farm one sees from Lewis Road is the perennial garden. This is 1/4 acre garden that was started last year (1973). We plan to grow perennial flowers, herbs, and vegetables—asparagus, rhubarb—and plants for dyeing and other uses. The perennial garden will be an on going project for a number of years as it gradually expands to utilize the whole area cleared. This will be a place that interested people can learn planting, propagation, and care of perennials. Hopefully, input from people in the community such as the Garden Club will be incorporated into the learning experience in this garden. Cut flowers may be one source of income. The aesthetic value of flowers will add to the flavor and beauty of the farm.

XIII. **Arts** Other activities have been suggested for the organic farm. the arts would find a restful and supportive atmosphere here. But space is a limiting factor. We feel at this time that ceramics, and weaving on floor looms and arts of this kind demand too much room. Workshops in other arts and crafts which do not require permanent space, such as sketching drawing, spinning, or dyeing could be offered periodically. We would encourage these forms of "messy arts" providing they did not interfere with the first priority for the farm which is farming.
The TESC Organic Farm covers an area of 11 acres. Of this land approximately 7 acres is in current use or in preparation for near future use. The remaining 4 acres consists mainly of a heavily wooded slope on the eastern portion of the farm. About 40-50% of the working farm may be labeled moderate use—consisting of wooded pasture area for the cows. Fifteen percent of the pasture is cleared and used heavily for grazing.

The core of the farm consists of about 3 acres utilized to full capacity. The major portion of this area is the vegetable garden comprising nearly an acre. Of adequate size now the garden area has room surrounding it to expand another \( \frac{1}{4} \) to \( \frac{1}{2} \) acre if future needs necessitate. The orchard (not yet planted) and the perennial garden (nearly completed) cover about 3/4 acres. This should allow room for 3 or 4 fruit and nut trees of any variety that is suited to this climate. At present the berry patch covers about 1000 square feet. Recognizing that berries are the best suited crop of this area and that only a sample crop is now under cultivation the berry patch will require considerable expansion. Another 1500 sq. feet or so behind the house may be utilized so as to include raspberries, boysenberries, loganberries, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, etc. The remaining core area consists of a chicken yard and coop, a compost yard, the farmhouse, and garage. Other structures on the farm are a greenhouse and a barn. The barn is adequate for the 2 animals there now and for one or possibly two animals added in the future. Cleared pasture land may be a limiting factor of additional animals before barn space.
Farm House  With the many diverse activities going on it is important that there be a central meeting place for people to talk, share experiences, and hold workshops and socials. The planned farmhouse will serve this function with a large common meeting room. The farm house will be a resource center with a collection of books, magazines and pamphlets on many aspects of self-sufficiency skills. An equally important function will be to house 2 caretakers. The need for everyday care of the animals, for someone to talk with visitors, and organize work, and for security necessitates that 2 people live on the farm. Preferably they will have had previous experience working on a farm so they will be aware of the full time responsibilities.