Urban Agriculture: A way to Reduce Food Desert Communities in Connecticut

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Urban agriculture may be an alternative for Connecticut and similar states to increase farmland acreage, increase the number of farmers, reduce food desert areas, and engage urban residents, like Hispanics, in food production. Dr. Cutz is currently teaching urban agriculture, technology, and small business management. Since 2013, his urban agriculture program teaches students in botany, entomology, vegetable production, integrated pest management, plant pathology, soils, farm risk-management, and entrepreneurship. He started teaching urban agriculture in Danbury, and the program also includes Bridgeport, and Norwalk, with expansion to Stamford this year. In 2015, eleven out of 15 urban agriculture students completed 180 hours of classroom instruction covering: botany, vegetable production, entomology, crop risk management, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Students volunteered 1,603 hours working in the farm preparing the land, building raised garden beds, planting and transplanting, maintaining an acre of organic vegetables at Candlelight Farms in New Milford, and selling produce at the Danbury Farmers’ Market. Live stream is available.

For questions or concerns, contact Marilyn Gould (marilyn.gould@uconn.edu or 860-486-3581).