Cultivating Success: A New Educational Program in Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching. (A01-perillo182120-Poster)

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Abstract:

'Cultivating Success' is a cooperative effort to expand educational opportunities in sustainable small acreage farming and ranching in Washington and Idaho. We are developing a 5-course program offered for either academic or continuing education credit. These include: 1) an introductory course in sustainable food systems, 2) an overview course on sustainable small acreage farming and ranching (including goal setting, resource assessment, and farm planning), 3) Agricultural Entrepreneurship (using NxLevel's 'Tilling the Soil of Opportunity'), 4) a 12-credit, on-farm apprenticeship with trained farmer-mentors, and 5) a capstone course in sustainable food systems. The program is targeted at individuals interested in agricultural service sectors and policy development, as well as individuals wanting to start farming or make changes in their existing enterprises. Formal proposals will be submitted for this series as a Certificate Program at both WSU and UI, shortly after submission of this abstract. Subsequently we hope to expand course and program offerings to multiple locations in subsequent years. The poster will describe the individual modules, plus challenges and lessons-learned thus far in our multi-disciplinary, multi-insitutional effort.

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