

# CEFS



NCSU | NCA&T | NCDA&CS

The Center for Environmental Farming Systems is a partnership of North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

## Small Farm Unit

### Goal

CEFS' Small Farm Unit (SFU) brings together the resources of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and other community partners to deliver research and demonstration of sustainable production and marketing practices to diverse audiences.

The CEFS SFU works in partnership with a network of farmers, researchers, educators, students and other community members to develop and support a healthy, viable, community-based food system in Wayne County and beyond.

### Small Farm Unit Structure

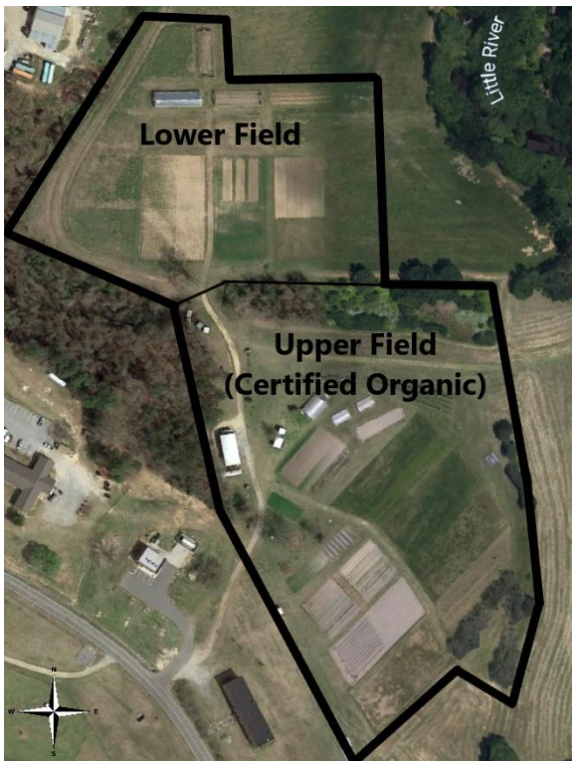
The Small Farm Unit covers approximately 30 acres with a wide range of soil types, equipment, buildings and educational focal points. The function of the unit is to model a systems-based approach within a whole farm context. Embedded within the farm design are ongoing research projects in systems rotation and other production topics relevant to small farm stakeholders.

In a typical season, the Small Farm Unit produces up to 100 varieties of twenty different kinds of small fruits and vegetables. Farm produce is donated to local community organizations, food kitchens, and shelters. Farm transplants are grown in a greenhouse with solar-assisted heating, cutting propane use by two-thirds. The unit composts organic waste, which is incorporated into the farm's fertility management strategy.

The Small Farm Unit also includes a 15-acre certified organic area and a model GAP (Good Agricultural Practices)-certified postharvest handling area.

## Research Areas

The Small Farm Unit is home to various short- and long-term research projects including enterprise budget studies (field projects studying the economics of production), greenhouse and high tunnel monitoring (testing various season extension techniques), organic transplant production, organic systems work (utilizing various cover crops as part of whole season rotation), and entomology projects (studying agricultural pests' life cycles).



What we have grown in the past

What we are growing now

Asparagus	Asparagus
Bitter Melon	Bitter Melon
Blackberries	Blackberries
Blueberries	Blueberries
Dill	Chives
Hollow Stem	Hollow Stem
Kale	Kale
Kohlrabi	Eggplants
Lettuce	Asian Greens
Long Eggplants	Various Cucumber
Okra	Okra
Round Eggplants	Peppers
Small Fuzzy Gourds	Specialty Melon
Specialty Gourds	Bush Beans
Sponge Gourds	Pole Beans
Lollo lettuce	Tomatoes
Beets	Parsley
Hybrid Main Carrots	Hybrid Carrots
Radish	
Sunflower	
Microgreens	