The Pomona College Organic Farm

Community Outreach:
The Farm hosts local school groups, community tours, and sponsors volunteer activities at local gardens. The Farm also collaborates with the Draper Center for Community Partnerships to host students from the PAYS program, Pomona Partners, and other groups.

Academics at the Farm:
The mission of The Farm is to give students at Pomona College a hands-on education in the methods and techniques of organic farming. Indeed, The Farm is part of the daily academic life of many students, faculty, and staff at Pomona College, used for classes such as Principles of Soil Science, Ecology, and Globalization. Professors agree that The Farm "represents a vital academic goal" of the college: educating students about environmental sustainability.

Student Research at the Farm:
Many students have used the Farm as a part of their research for senior thesis projects (selected projects listed below):

Lewis, S., 2010, Cultivating Youth Earth Connections Summer Internship Program (YEC): A Hand-on Environmental Justice Focused Farming Program at the High School Level
Behr, J., 2010, Chickens in the City: How Urban Husbandry Can Save Animals, Humans, and the Planet They Share
Graff, K., 2009, Soil Chemistry and Metal Pollution at the Pomona Organic Farm
Koelle, H., 2003, Exploring Environmental Lifestyle Changes at the Claremont Colleges
Bingham, K., 2001, Weed Tales: An Exploration of a Small Piece of Land in Claremont, California

Visit the Farm:
The Farm is located at 130 Amherst Avenue (south of the Greek Theater and east of the South Campus Parking Structure). Please call ahead and we'll be happy to show you around.

More Information:
facebook.com/pomonafarm
farm.pomona.edu

Contact the Farm:
farm@pomona.edu
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Wish List:
We are always looking to expand the Farm to accommodate demand, which overwhelms the limited resources available. Our priorities include:

- Funding for summer internship program for local students
- Electricity for tools and security
- Projector, whiteboard, and roof for the outdoor classroom
- A dedicated Farm vehicle

How You Can Help:
Please let Pomona know why the Farm is important to you by calling, e-mailing, or writing a letter. If you wish to donate to the Farm, contact the Office of Major Gifts at (909) 607-7441. Thank you!

Community Members:
The Farm currently has many community members who lead and participate in workshops and events, help with daily Farm tasks, and maintain plots on the West Farm. Please contact the Farm to request a Community Member Farm Pass Application if you would like to become regularly involved.

Photos by Adam Long unless otherwise indicated. Last updated April 7th, 2014.
The Farm - An Overview

The Earth Dome:
The Dome is was built by students and community members using mostly natural materials. Sitting at the center of the West Farm, the Dome is used as an all-purpose gathering space. The Dome now sports a hand-carved door and student art decorating the interior.

Food, Land, and the Environment:
Along with a greenhouse, bee hives, banana trees, and more, the East Farm hosts EA’s Food, Land, and the Environment class. This class uses the Farm as a hands-on laboratory for horticultural practices like amending soil, planting, and pest management. The 8th year of this class has almost 50 students enrolled.

Composting:
Starting in 2007, the Farm has composted food waste from The Coop, the Sagehen Café, and all of Pomona’s dining facilities with mulch and leaf waste from around campus. The finished compost is used to amend soil.

Order of the Sagehen:
In the spring of 2008, the “Order of the Sagehen” was formed to take care of chickens on The Farm. The birds are used to teach animal husbandry, control pests, and fertilize plots. There are now seven chickens at the Farm living in a spacious enclosure amongst the fruit trees.

Farm Club:
Dozens of students make up the ASPC-funded Farm Club. Every semester, Farm Club leaders organize workshops, events, field trips, and speakers at the Farm and around Southern California. Ten students are also employed at the Farm to maintain the crops, work the compost, help organize events, and do general labor.

Farm Stand:
In the Fall of 2011, the Farm started a bi-weekly Farm Stand at the Smith Campus Center for the college and Claremont community. Produce is sold at a very low price and the proceeds go directly towards Farm Club budget.