

## What is Sunrise Farm?

Sunrise is a 100 hectare farm near Woodstock, New Brunswick. It is home to beef and dairy cattle, and produces grain and vegetable crops. More than a place, however, Sunrise is a concept: it is a community agriculture learning centre which promotes economic and social inclusion through farm work for people of all ages who find themselves marginalized by lack of opportunity to learn, earn, connect and contribute. With its space and farm facilities, Sunrise can meet many needs: including learning, working, socializing, growing food, business development, recreation – and more!

## Who owns it?

Sunrise is privately owned but operated by Partners for Youth, a provincial non-profit organization which provides programs and services to youth at risk. PFY uses the farm for its own purposes and opens it to all educational institutions, non-profit organizations, government departments and entrepreneurs who may sponsor and direct their own activities on site.

## Who can partner with Sunrise Farm and access its resources?

- government departments
- agricultural organizations
- schools at every level
- programs for people with special needs of all kinds
- child and family programs and organizations
- non-profit organizations and informal community groups

## What will it cost?

Partners may use the farm at no cost, but must supply their own program support workers and transportation.

## How do I contact Sunrise Farm?

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*A new day for inclusive communities, local agriculture, and healthy, productive lives.*



Sunrise Farm is New Brunswick's first comprehensive community agriculture learning centre. It's a hands-on school without walls, where experience with agriculture-related activities demonstrates the values and skills of a sustainable lifestyle and leads to the discovery of personal potential.

## Why is Sunrise Farm needed?

New Brunswick faces five challenges which can be addressed at a community agriculture learning centre.

1. Many people live in poverty because they have no work or the skills to obtain employment. Poverty is expensive; it is related to low education levels, poor health, lack of opportunity, and social problems such as crime and addictions.
2. Students with diverse learning styles need alternative settings where they have hands-on opportunities in an environment which promotes skill development, responsibility and cooperation.
3. Agriculture has not been given the attention it deserves as a generator of economic activity and as a local food source.
4. Rural communities are struggling to sustain themselves, economically and socially, in the face of increasing urbanization.
5. The structures of our systems- education, health, social services – do not encourage or even permit a comprehensive, integrated approach to socio-economic problem solving.



## How can Sunrise Farm help to address these challenges?

1. Working at the farm can help people who are unemployed and/or living in poverty acquire skills for the workforce. These include not only agricultural and mechanical skills, but also the “soft” skills like decision-making, taking responsibility, and working with others.
2. Most farm work has a hands-on or mechanical element, which enables concrete learners to be educated in a setting which promotes their learning and is comfortable for them.
3. The diverse agricultural activities at the farm engage participants in the life cycle of crops and animals, increasing knowledge about the sources of our food and, ultimately, our dependence on nature.
4. Some businesses incubated at the farm can make the transition to the private sector and contribute to the economic viability of the community.
5. The focus on agriculture brings together a variety of people who can achieve their own goals by pursuing a shared interest in some aspect of farming.

## What can happen at Sunrise Farm?

### *Whatever you can imagine!*

#### Educational activities

- courses at every level
- co-op placements
- skills and training programs
- crop research and production
- animal husbandry
- family/community gardening
- construction and maintenance of facilities

#### Economic activities

- student summer employment
- government employment programs
- marketing/sale of farm products. eg eggs, compost, beef, etc.
- social enterprises and new business development

#### Agricultural activities

- crop research and production
- food production
- dairy products (production and distribution)
- beef cattle, chickens
- produce for commercial buyers

#### Community involvement activities

- therapeutic gardening
- food processing (canning)
- farm visits for all ages
- food distribution (food banks, school food programs) and integrated projects

.....and more!

