

DIXON HIGH SCHOOL
NEW SCHOOL FARM
STUDENT COMMITTEE

Members of this committee consisted of students from the various agricultural education classes at Dixon High School who are also FFA Members of the Dixon FFA Chapter. The students inspected the land site, measured and calculated the acreage, and gave input to the student use of the new school farm.

All members agreed that its primary mission should be to enhance the academic learning experience in agricultural education through challenging hands-on laboratory activities. This would also include other programs such as science, the AIG Academy, and the Garden Club. A secondary mission would be to provide opportunities in Supervised Agricultural Experience Program. Students would be able to grow crops and plants, raise livestock, and assist in operating and maintaining an agricultural facility outside of classroom time.

Students were asked to design a 15 acre school farm from their own perspective. The following is a summary that show a high consensus for a model school farm on this site:

1. Must have a Farm Machinery & Equipment Shop to provide for secure housing of valuable equipment, and a facility for performing equipment repair and maintenance.
2. Must have new and modern machinery & equipment that represents the current industry, for both student training and operation of the farm.
3. Must have a Livestock Barn & Facility that meets both the needs of instruction and housing for SAE Projects for students in need.
4. Strongly recommends a Greenhouse for instructional purposes as well as for student SAEP opportunities.
5. Strongly recommends planting Almonds on 10 acres as a future source of operating income.

- 6. Strongly recommends developing 5 acres into crop plots, garden areas, and pasture land.**
- 7. Highly recommends utilizing some land for wildlife habitat areas.**
- 8. Highly recommends developing an area for outdoor recreation.**
- 9. Highly recommends a partnership with the 5 acre Solar Farm.**
- 10. Recommends developing a partnership with local and area industry to enhance the opportunities and future development.**

The student committee also recommends starting the project soon, and although it may be a good idea to visit other school farms, the local expertise in our community and teaching staff should be able to provide the vision and direction needed to develop such a project.

In conclusion, the committee has adopted a motto: “Build It, and They Will Come!”

Respectfully Submitted the DHS Student School Farm Committee

May 30, 2014