



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 26, 2007

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2006-2007

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Education - Dr. Todd D. Dinkelman

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Veterinary Medicine - Dr. Paige Carmichael

Graduate School - Dr. Malcolm R. Adams

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Alison Gibbons

Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Lindsey Scott

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Organic Agriculture will be an agenda item for the April 2, 2007, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Professor Jere W. Morehead

The University Council: Executive Committee, Committee on Facilities, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics,
Committee on Student Affairs, Curriculum Committee, Educational Affairs Committee, Faculty Admissions Committee,
Committee on Statutes, Bylaws and Committees, Faculty Affairs Committee,
Faculty Grievance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, University Libraries Committee
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

I. Basic Information

1. Institution: University of Georgia Date: March 23, 2007
2. School/College: Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
3. Department/Division: Agricultural and Applied Economics, Anthropology, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, Crop and Soil Science, Ecology, Entomology, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Poultry Science.
4. Level: Undergraduate
5. Proposed starting date for program: Fall semester 2007

6. Abstract:

The objectives of the Organic Agriculture Certificate are: 1) to develop curriculum for a new certificate program in organic agriculture, and 2) develop an organic teaching/demonstration farm at the Horticulture Research Farm in Watkinsville to facilitate course delivery. The program is a 15-credit interdisciplinary minor designed to fill a critical curriculum gap in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), and allow access to students from other colleges on the UGA campus interested in organic agriculture. This unique certificate program would be the only interdisciplinary certificate program focused specifically on organic agriculture in the southeastern U.S. Thirteen faculty members from three colleges comprise an interdisciplinary team of program instructors who will serve as advisors, mentors and instructors to the students for the four new "core" courses in the program. In addition, elective courses ranging from anthropology, ecology, applied economics, and environmental ethics to traditional agricultural subjects will complement the core courses.

Each student will design, perform, and present a simple research project with the help of a faculty mentor. The program provides a firm foundation in organic agriculture, complemented with a unique area of emphasis, and completed with capstone experiential learning and seminar courses. Unique aspects include: accessibility to non-agriculture majors, emphasis on micro-farming and niche crops, and the unique challenges and opportunities presented by Georgia's warm-temperate climate and soils. The CAES is contributing land and farm resources, faculty time, most equipment, and \$50,000 for purchase and renovation of facilities for the program. A USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant was awarded in June 2006 (\$145,000), which will fund program development and delivery through June 2009. Afterward, the CAES will support the program.

7. Letters of support written by:

Scott Angle, Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Scott Weinberg, Dean, College of Environment and Design
Garnett Stokes, Dean, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Joe Broder, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, CAES
Douglas Bailey, Head, Department of Horticulture

Keith Delaplane, Professor of Entomology, Honey Bee Research Lab
Ervan G. Garrison, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology
Alan P. Covich, Professor and Director, Institute of Ecology
Alice Rolls, Executive Director, Georgia Organics

II. Response to the Criteria for All Programs

1. Purpose and Educational Objectives:

A. Purpose and Educational Objectives:

The proposed Certificate Program in Organic Agriculture is designed to serve students within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), and attract students from other colleges as well. The program integrates several disciplines within the CAES, and includes faculty from two other units: Ecology and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. The CAES completed a major revision of its strategic plan in 2003, listing many student/education-based objectives. With a benchmark date of 2010, the plan emphasizes the following qualities (in italics) that are readily achieved with this certificate program:

- 1) *Student-centered instruction and active learning.* The program is flexible, allowing students to tailor their course work to their specific interests within organic agriculture. The hands-on aspects of the work on the demonstration farm provide a critical component to the learning experience.
- 2) *Increased interdisciplinary teaching and learning opportunities.* The program requires new course development and revision of existing courses, and pulls together a team of instructors from across the college, as well as outside the college. The backgrounds of the participants reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the program, again meeting strategic goals.
- 3) *Internship or have an independent research experience.* A unique aspect of the program is the requirement for a research project through a new course entitled "Undergraduate Research in Organic Agriculture." This requirement infuses an active learning approach with undergraduate research, and thereby meets two of the goals stated in the strategic plan.
- 4) *Program flexibility by offering a broader range of choices in the major requirements and electives to allow students to tailor their course work to their interests.* The program is designed with minimal prerequisites and sufficient flexibility to be attractive and accessible to students with diverse backgrounds and interests.

And though not a specific educational objective, this program has potential to increase enrollment in the CAES, which is currently one of the highest priorities set by the new Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

B. Interdisciplinary nature of the proposed program:

As shown in the list of cooperators, participating faculty were drawn from the disciplines of anthropology, crop and soil sciences, economics, ecology, engineering, entomology, horticulture, plant pathology, and poultry science. This program is based on a successful and easily adapted model; a core of required foundation courses and a list of electives, all

supported by a student organic farm. Key distinguishing elements in this program are the undergraduate research requirement, the emphasis on protected cultivation, niche crops, and micro-farming, and the unique challenges and opportunities found in Georgia.

2. *Need for the program:*

A. Why Necessary:

The Organic Agriculture Certificate Program is needed because organics is currently the fastest growing sector of agriculture, increasing at 20% or more per year since 1999. As of 2002, organic products were valued at over \$7 billion annually. A UGA Agriculture Economist projected a value for organic food of \$45 billion nationwide by 2010. Organics offers graduates opportunities as farm managers or as smaller growers themselves in an industry traditionally dominated by larger farms, corporations, or cooperatives.

As organic agriculture has grown, so have the policies and issues surrounding it. In 2002, the USDA revised its federal organic rule, currently stated within the National Organic Program (NOP). This rule greatly increased the complexity of operating an organic farm and, as a result, growers often have to make extensive revisions to their organic management plan. New and expanded curricula are required to properly train students on the challenges of organic agriculture policy as well as practice.

Several Land Grant institutions offer formal programs in organic or sustainable agriculture nationwide, including: Iowa State University, North Carolina State University, Ohio State University, University of California-Davis, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of Hawaii, University of Illinois, University of Vermont, University of Minnesota, University of Maine, University of Nebraska, University of Wyoming, and Washington State University. Most of these programs are located in regions that are climatically and edaphically different from the southeastern United States.

The proposed certificate would not be offered just because “everyone else has one.” The University of Georgia would be only one of two formal programs dealing with organic agriculture in the southeastern United States, and the only university in the southeast to integrate farm activities into traditional course offerings.

B.

- Semester/Year of Program Initiation: Fall 2007
- Semester/Year Full Implementation of Program: Fall 2008
- Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded: Fall 2008 or Spring 2009
- Annual Number of Graduates expected: 25-50
- Projected future trends for number of students enrolled in the program: The average instructional program in the CAES has an enrollment of 42-48 students, which will be the initial target for the certificate program at the end of its 3rd year. We anticipate 75-100 students enrolled in the program by 2011.

3. *Student Demand:*

A. Student interest:

There is great interest among students, both within CAES and from other colleges on the University of Georgia campus. Seniors, during “exit” interviews, have indicated that they would like the CAES offer more courses on organic agriculture. Many students interested in

organic agriculture are currently seeking information and training outside the academic environment and lack the foundation to apply and practice in their field of choice.

An organic agriculture course offered by Dr. Carl Jordan (a cooperator on this proposal) in the Department of Ecology has been taught three times, and the enrollment cap (18 students) has been exceeded on all three occasions. Two additional courses related to organics have experienced large increases in enrollment in the last three years. Enrollment in HORT 3300 (Organic Gardening) has increased from under 50 students to 125 in the past few years. Most of the increased enrollment has come from outside the college, although the course is popular with CAES majors. HORT(ANTH)(PBIO) 3440 (Herbs, Spices, and Medicinal Plants), has seen enrollment increase from 130 to 300 since 2003, again largely due to interest from non-agriculture majors. These courses currently represent the closest to having “organic themes” as any courses, and are popular with students interested in organics and micro-farming.

B. Minority Enrollment:

Minority enrollment in this certificate program will be similar to or higher than other CAES programs due to the interdisciplinary nature of the program and the expected enrollment of non-agricultural majors in the program. Minority enrollment in CAES programs lags slightly behind that of UGA overall, so an influx of students from other colleges should enhance diversity and bring the CAES closer to overall UGA minority enrollment figures.

4. *Curriculum Design:*

1. Curriculum Outline:

Students take ONE of two courses taught at different times of the year: AESC 3125 (Organic Agricultural Systems) will be taught during spring semester annually and will have a large enrollment cap (50-75 students) OR ECOL 3700 (Organic Agriculture: Ecological Agriculture and the Ethics of Sustainability), which is taught during May Session, and has a small enrollment cap (18 students). Next, students will take AESC 3126 (Fertility and Pest Management in Organic Agriculture), taught in the fall semester. This course has no prerequisites and could be taken out of sequence, as scheduling conflicts are likely to arise for some students. AESC 4095 (Undergraduate Research in Organic Agriculture) functions as the capstone experience to the program, and thus would be taken in the student’s final year. This course will be offered every semester to accommodate students’ schedules and spread the research projects throughout the year. In this course the Program Coordinator pairs the student with a faculty member having expertise in the student’s area of interest, and a small research project is designed and conducted at the organic farm site. AESC 4096 (Organic Agriculture Seminar) is a 1-credit seminar for analyzing case studies, bringing in invited speakers (e.g., certification agents, organic growers), and scheduling student research project presentations. It must be taken during or following the semester that AESC 4095 is completed, as all students will present the results of their research projects in this course.

Since emphasis is placed on flexibility, the 4-6 additional hours in the “select from” list are chosen with the consent of the Program Coordinator. For example, courses could focus on economics for students with a policy/marketing orientation, plant pathology for those with a pest management orientation, or horticulture for those with a crops orientation. For example, students wishing to study greenhouse production in their supervised research

project would be advised to take HORT 4050/6050 (Greenhouse Management I), those studying soils would be advised to take CRSS 4670/6670 (Environmental Soil Chemistry), and so on. Courses in the “select from” list can be taken at any time, but preferably before the research project is conducted. The end result is a firm foundation in organic agriculture, complemented with a unique area of emphasis, and completed with capstone experiential learning and seminar courses.

Table 1. Requirements for the proposed Certificate Program in Organic Agriculture in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

<u>All students must complete a minimum of 9 hours:</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
<i>AESC¹ 3125 Organic Agricultural Systems²</i>	4
OR	
ECOL 3700 Organic Agriculture: Ecological Agriculture and the Ethics of Sustainability	4
<i>AESC 3126 Fertility and Pest Management in Organic Agriculture</i>	3
<i>AESC 4095 Undergraduate Research in Organic Agriculture</i>	1-3
<i>AESC 4096 Organic Agriculture Seminar</i>	1
¹ AESC = Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (used to denote interdisciplinary courses within CAES)	
² Courses in italics are newly proposed courses	

Select 6 hours from:

AAEC 2060 Economic Perspectives on the Environment and Natural Resources	3
AAEC 3010 Farm Organization and Management	3
AAEC 3040 Agribusiness Marketing	3
AAEC 3060 Principles of Resource Economics	3
AAEC 3980 Introduction to Agribusiness Management	3
ADSC 2010 Introductory Animal and Dairy Science	3
ADSC 3320 Animal Nutrition and Feeding	3
ADSC 4010 Issues in Animal Agriculture	3
AESC(EETH) 4190/6190 Agricultural Ethics	1
ANTH 4060/6060 Agricultural Anthropology	3
ANTH 4262/6262 Transitions from Foraging to Farming	3
ANTH(PBIO) 4300/6300-4300L/6300L Ethnobotany	3
ANTH 4900/6900 Special Topics in Anthropology	3
CRSS(FORS) 1020 Introduction to Water Resources	3
CRSS 2010 Crop Science	3
CRSS(HORT) 4140/6140 Plant Breeding	3
CRSS(HORT) 4590/6590 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition	3
CRSS 4670/6670 Environmental Soil Chemistry	3
CRSS(HORT)(ANTH)(ECOL)(GEOG) 4930/6930 Agroecology of Tropical America	3
CRSS(HORT)(ANTH)(ECOL)(GEOG) 4931/6931 Agroecology of Tropical America Field Trip	3-6
ECOL 1000-1000L Ecological Basis of Environmental Issues	4
ECOL(BIOL) 3500-3500L Ecology	4
ECOL 3520 Ecological Applications	3
EETH 4230/6230 Environmental Values and Policy	3
ENTO 3740-3740L Insect Pest Management	4

ENTO(CRSS)(PATH) 4740/6740-4740L/6740L Integrated Pest Management	3
FORS(MARS) 1100 Natural Resources Conservation	3
FORS 3020-3020L Ecology of Natural Resources	4
FORS(ENGR)(CRSS)(GEOL)(GEOG)(ECOL) 4170L/6170L Hydrology, Geology, and Soils of Georgia	3
HORT 4990/6990 Environmental Issues in Horticulture	1
HORT 3010 Introduction to Vegetable Crops	3
HORT 3020 Introduction to Fruit Crops	3
HORT 3300 Organic Gardening	2
HORT 4050/6050 Greenhouse Management I	3
HORT(ANTH)(PBIO) 3440 Herbs, Spices, and Medicinal Plants	2
PATH 3530-3530L Introductory Plant Pathology	3
PATH 4280/6280-4280L/6280L Diagnosis and Management of Plant Diseases	4
PATH(ENTO) 4360/6360 Ornamental Pest Management	3
POUL 2020-2020L Introductory Poultry Science	3
POUL 3600 Poultry Production	3

2. Model programs:

Michigan State University has recently initiated a certificate program with a similar mix of academic and hands-on course work as the program proposed for the University of Georgia. Their certificate requires both formal course work and field experience. NC State University offers one of the few programs offering an organic farming experience to students in the southeast, and is more of an internship program than a degree or certificate program. There is no formal accreditation for organic agriculture curricula; however, a national group of educators was formed at a sustainable agriculture conference in January 2006. The University of Georgia program is likely to serve as a model for other land-grant colleges.

5. *Faculty Resources:*

A. Size, experience, and specializations of the full-time faculty:

The need for any new faculty is not anticipated; existing faculty are listed in the table below, along with qualifications and background information. Since there are 14 cooperators and courses are team-taught, the increased teaching load on an individual faculty member is minor, amounting to 1/3 of a course per year or less.

B. Adequacy, attributes, and responsibilities of cooperators in certificate program.

Name	Position	Area of Specialization	Responsibilities
Jim Affolter	Prof. Horticulture	Herbs, spices, medicinals; specialty crops	HORT 3440
David Berle	Asst. Prof. Horticulture	GIS mapping; farm design; vegetable culture	Design & map farm AESC 4096
KC Das	Assoc. Prof. Bio. & Ag. Engineering	Compost and organic matter	AESC 3126

Paul Guillebeau	Prof. Entomology	Insect pest management	AESC 3126
Peter Hartel	Prof. Crop & Soil Sci.	Soil microbiology, environmental ethics	AESC 3125
Dan Horton	Prof. Entomology	Insect pest management	AESC 3126
Marc van Iersel	Prof. Horticulture	Soil fertility & water management	AESC 3126
Carl Jordan	Prof. Ecology	Ecological aspects of agriculture, organic farmer	ECOL 3700 AESC 3126
David Knauff	Prof. Horticulture	Organic gardening, plant breeding	HORT 3300
Mike Lacy	Prof. & Head Poultry Science	Organic animal agriculture; Chair of Livestock Comm. of Nat'l Organic Standards Board	AESC 3125
Luanne Lohr	Assoc. Prof. Agric. Economics	Economics and marketing in organic agriculture	AESC 3125
Robert Rhoades	Prof. Anthropology	Heirloom plants & seed; sustainable development	AESC 3125
Anish	Asst. Prof. Horticulture	Fruit crops, agroecology, sustainable agriculture	Program Coordinator AESC 3125 AESC 4096
Harald Scherm	Prof. Plant Pathology	Plant disease management, epidemiology	AESC 3125 AESC 4096

NOTE: All faculty will participate in AESC 4095 (Undergraduate Research in Organic Agriculture) by supervising undergraduate research in their area of specialization.

6. *Program resources:*

A. Library:

The University of Georgia Libraries currently provide all of the anticipated resources needed to teach the program. Computer resources at the libraries, the Student Learning Center, and various CAES-supported computer labs will provide all the computer needs for the program. The USDA Challenge Grant, funds from the Dean of the CAES, and the Horticultural Research Farm provide all resources needed for field lectures, labs, and research projects.

7. *Physical Facilities:*

Current classroom and laboratory space is sufficient for program delivery. The USDA Challenge Grant and in-kind funds from the Dean of the CAES will provide for the development of a 2-acre organic farm, counterpart conventional growing areas, and two 24' x 100' greenhouses at the Horticultural Research Farm in Watkinsville, GA. These resources currently are being developed to support another USDA grant project of the Program Coordinator on organic small fruit production. The Horticultural Research Farm is 6 miles south of the UGA campus, about a 15-minute commute. Departmental vans will be used to transport students to and from the farm.

8. *Expense to the Institution:*

A. Detailed Funding:

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Personnel ¹	\$77,215	\$77,215	\$77,215
Operating Costs ²	\$11,515	\$11,515	\$11,515
Capital Outlays ³	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Library Acquisitions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$138,730	\$88,730	\$88,730

¹ Derived from the sum of 1) salary cost-sharing for faculty involved in the USDA Challenge Grant, and 2) graduate stipend and part-time Horticulturist salaries from the same grant [includes fringe benefits].

² Derived from the USDA Challenge Grant [indirect costs received by Sponsored Programs over the grant period total \$29,756].

³ From the CAES Dean as in-kind matching for the USDA Challenge Grant to initiate the program and subsequent annual additions required to fully implement the program are needed below. Estimates should be based upon funding needed to develop an effective and successful program and not upon the minimal investment required to mount and sustain a potentially marginal program.

B. Student Support:

The supporting USDA Challenge Grant allocates \$7200 in student support dollars to be used for part-time graduate assistants. The program needs little in the way of student support funds since it will be taught almost entirely by faculty, and undergraduate students will perform their own field work as a requirement for obtaining the certificate. Also, the USDA Challenge Grant provides a part-time Horticulturist position that will provide support for faculty and students, lessening the need for student support.

9. *Commitments of Financial Support:*

A. Sources of Additional Funds:

Two sources provide the funding required for the first three years of the program. The first is a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant (\$145,000), and the second is a \$50,000 in-kind contribution from the Dean of the CAES. Funds have been awarded from both sources already.

B. Long-Range Plans for Funding:

Funding programs within the USDA, such as the Integrated Organic Program (IOP) and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program are potential sources of funds beyond the three-year period. Also, the Dean of the CAES has organized a cross-disciplinary working group for those involved in sustainable agriculture within the college, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting sustainable agriculture research, education, and outreach. In addition to grants from USDA, there is an opportunity to develop a student-run farm to generate operating dollars for the program. Several organic teaching programs around the country raise funds in a similar manner.

10. Administrative structure for the administration of the program:

The program will be administered through the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the CAES. Student advising and program coordination will be done within the Department of Horticulture by the Program Coordinator. Students will be admitted through an application and interview process. The Program Coordinator will advise prospective students on their course needs and suitability of their program of study to the certificate program. Deficiencies related to prerequisites for certain courses may require a waiver or additional course work, depending on the abilities of the students and requirements of the course.



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
Office of Academic Affairs

January 20, 2006

Higher Education Challenge Grants Program
c/o Proposal Services Unit
CSREES-USDA
Room 1420, Waterfront Centre
800 9th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Program Coordinator:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Dr. Mark Rieger's grant application, "Certificate Program in Organic Agriculture at the University of Georgia." The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia are fully supportive of the project objective to create a formal education program in organic agriculture. The proposed project is designed to meet educational goals specified in our College's strategic plan and meets the guidelines for Challenge Grants. The Office of Academic Affairs endorses and supports the priority areas identified in the proposal. Our College and the University of Georgia are committed to providing science-based knowledge and education, to recruit and retain students and to provide experiential learning experiences for our students. Dr. Rieger is an exceptional scholar with the experience and commitment to successfully complete this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this grant application. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Josef M. Broder
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

JB:lc

cy: J. Scott Angle
Doug Bailey



The University of Georgia

Institute of Ecology

19 January 2006

USDA Challenge Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia enthusiastically supports the attached proposal for a certificate program in organic agriculture. We are pleased to cooperate with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Department of Anthropology. We are especially pleased that Dr. Carl Jordan's course (ECOL 3700 Organic Agriculture), and other ECOL courses will be used in the program.

The proposed project will attract Ecology majors, as many of our students are interested in sustainable development and the interaction between agricultural practice and ecosystem function. This proposal is a perfect fit for program and I will do everything I can to help support it.

Sincerely,

Alan P. Covich

Professor and Director, Institute of Ecology



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Office of the Dean and Director

January 18, 2006

Dr. Mark Rieger
Department of Horticulture
1111 Miller Plant Sciences Building
Campus

Dear Dr. Rieger:

Your proposal to create a certificate program in organic agriculture has my full support as Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The program goals are aligned closely with the strategic goals to increase enrollment, student experiential learning, and the number of interdisciplinary academic programs in our College. The resources on the Athens campus and at the Horticultural Research Farm listed in the proposal can be used for the duration of the program. In addition, I will provide \$50,000 if the grant is funded to purchase and construct greenhouses and other items not allowed under Challenge Grant budget guidelines.

Good luck with your proposal.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Argle
Dean and Director

cc: Doug Bailey



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Department of Entomology

MEMO TO: Mark W. Rieger
FROM: Keith S. Delaplane, Professor
ksd@uga.edu
RE: collaboration
DATE: January 12, 2006

I am happy to make my teaching facility at the UGA Horticulture Farm available to you on a scheduled basis for the duration of your course. To ensure smooth operations, please coordinate specific dates and times with my on-site technician, Jennifer Berry at (706) 769-1736 or jbee@uga.edu. I hope the availability of my facility will enhance the experience for you and your students.

c: Jennifer Berry, MS



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Department of Horticulture

9 January 2006

USDA Challenge Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that the Department of Horticulture is committed to supporting the enclosed proposal on developing a certificate program in organic production and to assure that the described resources (land for the certified organic farm plots, land and utility availability for the greenhouses, faculty teaching EFT, etc.) are available for the project. The proposed project would greatly enhance our College teaching program and is viewed as a valuable opportunity that we fully endorse.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Bailey
Professor and Department Head



The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

August 24, 2006

Professor Mark Rieger
1111 Plant Sciences
University of Georgia
Athens GA 30602

Dear Dr. Rieger,

The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to express its support and endorsement of the proposed Interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Organic Agriculture. This program will respond to the growing importance of organic farming in the state of Georgia and elsewhere—both in its concern with the technologies of organic agriculture but with also the state and federal policies that affect it. The interdisciplinary nature of this program is a welcome development and will provide an enhanced opportunity for students from various programs and colleges to study this important developing field.

Sincerely,

Garnett S. Stokes

Garnett S. Stokes
Dean



GEORGIA
organics

Georgia Organics, Inc
P.O. Box 8924
Atlanta, GA 31106
www.georgiaorganics.org

January 12, 2006

Mr. J. Scott Angle
Dean and Director
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
101 Conner Hall
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dean Angle,

Georgia Organics is pleased to support this proposal to establish a certificate program at UGA in organic growing. Historically, there have been little or no options for students to learn about sustainable and organic growing within Georgia's university system. Many students interested in these subjects have had to look for learning opportunities in other areas, most notably North Carolina, where there are communities and colleges with dedicated programs.

Georgia Organics mission is to promote local foods, sustainable farms and healthy families. Most of our programs focus on grower education as the accelerating demand for healthy foods is outpacing our supply sources. Our state needs more sustainable and organic producers and the best way to advance this important goal is through education. Outreach is needed to reach emerging growers and existing conventional growers, and sustainable agriculture needs to be taught to young students to seed the next wave of future farmers.

In addition, as people are educated about growing organically, a new mindset begins to take hold where the whole ecosystem and communities are considered in farm decisions. Successful sustainable farm operations can result in multiple benefits - producing healthy food for consumers, protecting our natural resources, preserving rural lands and fueling local economies.

Georgia Organics would be delighted to work with UGA to provide information, content and contacts for guest lectures, case studies, internships and work opportunities. Many of our members are very knowledgeable about organic growing and are generous in sharing their experience and passion with others. In turn, student research at the organic teaching farm may yield information that will be of great interest to farmers around the state.

We look forward to a close relationship that will enrich both students and farmers looking to strengthen sustainable agriculture and local food systems in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Alice Rolls
Executive Director



local foods • sustainable farms • healthy people



The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

August 24, 2006

Professor Mark Rieger
1111 Plant Sciences
University of Georgia
Athens GA 30602

Dear Dr. Rieger,

The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to express its support and endorsement of the proposed Interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Organic Agriculture. This program will respond to the growing importance of organic farming in the state of Georgia and elsewhere—both in its concern with the technologies of organic agriculture but with also the state and federal policies that affect it. The interdisciplinary nature of this program is a welcome development and will provide an enhanced opportunity for students from various programs and colleges to study this important developing field.

Sincerely,

Garnett S. Stokes

Garnett S. Stokes
Dean



The University of Georgia

School of Environmental Design

August 19, 2006

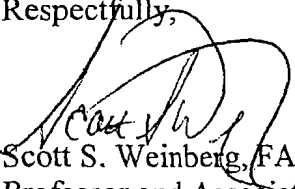
Professor Mark Rieger
1111 Plant Sciences
Department of Horticulture
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Professor Reiger:

I have just read through your abstract regarding the development of a certificate program in Organic Agriculture. I would like to endorse the program as it takes a truly interdisciplinary approach to the subject matter. Thirteen faculty from three colleges is certainly something to be excited about. I also feel that the fact the certificate program is open to all students on the university campus, across all majors, is exceptional. I am sure you have no problem filling seats.

If I can be of any assistance in helping you to get this program up off the ground, please feel free to ask.

Respectfully,



Scott S. Weinberg, FASLA
Professor and Associate Dean