



# VENTURE SEMESTER:

## LEADERSHIP THROUGH AGRICULTURE



Join the Vermont Technical College and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps for the Venture Semester, fifteen weeks in agriculture, food systems, and leadership development. Each semester, a crew of 16 students will explore Vermont's farms, forests, and rich culture. They learn from expert teachers, farmers, and agricultural leaders. They milk cows, raise honey bees, and

boil sap into maple syrup. They learn to grow vegetables from seed to harvest, and they cook for one another every day. Students develop a stronger relationship with the food they eat and a

deeper understanding of food security, hunger, nutrition, and public health. An opportunity to contribute to an innovative partnership between farms and hospitals gives the crew a profound experience in growing food for those in need. Guided by highly passionate leaders, the crew will experience life on two of Vermont's most beautiful and historic campus farms. Together, they learn as much about themselves and their place in the world as they do about food systems and agriculture.

Students live on both Vermont Tech and VYCC campuses, where they experience life in a college dormitory, as well as sleeping in a yurt under the stars. Weekends bring hiking, camping, swimming, and a true taste of the Green Mountains. Students earn transferrable college credit, as well as develop critical thinking, advanced writing, and technical skills.

The Venture Semester is for students who **CRAVE AN ADVENTURE**, and for individuals who are **READY TO BE LEADERS**.

Each semester, students work in small intimate groups led by seasoned mentors at both the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps in Richmond, Vermont and Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center, Vermont. Students progress through a series of experiences that build confidence, competency, and resilience.

### FALL SEMESTER

Starting in late August, students will gain knowledge in areas of animal production, plant production, and forestry management.

*By the end of the season, in early December, students will have earned 7 Vermont State College credits towards AGR 1050 Livestock Production; and LAH 1050 Introduction to Soils.*

#### TRAINING ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- » Vegetable crop harvest
- » poultry harvest and preparation
- » daily meal preparation
- » camping, canoeing, hiking
- » grazing management
- » mechanical forage harvest
- » milking, feeding and caring for dairy cows, pigs and poultry
- » soil testing
- » greenhouse laboratories
- » chainsaw operation
- » timber harvest
- » farm machinery maintenance
- » concrete installation
- » farm site and building analysis and repair
- » maple line installation and maintenance
- » soil classification
- » mechanical repair
- » halter training
- » beginning livestock management
- » farm record keeping and spreadsheet analysis



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