

# Land-Based Learning Centers

A multi-generational educational approach to promoting on-farm sustainable agriculture in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Collaborative Sustainable Agriculture Education teams will implement place-based and sustainable agriculture, food, and natural resource projects in each intermediate school district with benefits for

## SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, & FARMS

- Connection between classroom concepts and a local business offers hands-on learning opportunities
- Place-based learning engages students with community sustainability issues
- Funding for field trips, tools, and training
- Opportunity to tackle real-world issues on a local farm to improve productivity and sustainability
- Work experience through internships
- Increased understanding of careers associated with agriculture, food systems, and natural resources
- Project funding offers improvements to farm ecosystems and profitability
- Interns provide intergenerational connection and labor
- Marketing opportunities available through social media and outreach events



**working together.**

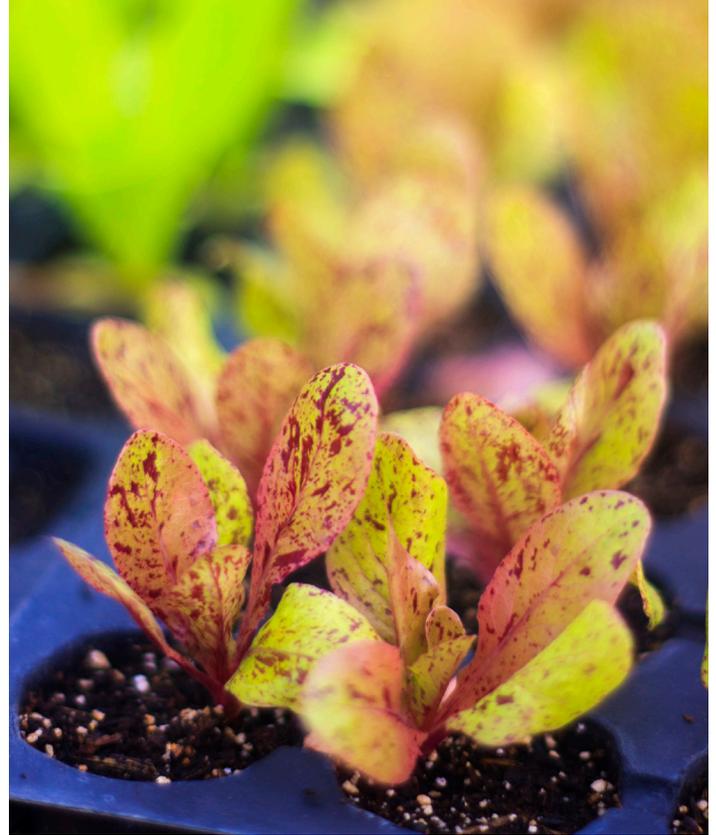
follow our projects on social media

**#studentsUPonthefarm**

# sustainable agriculture EDUCATION

In 2018, Michigan State University will partner with a farmer and teacher in each Intermediate School District in the Upper Peninsula to develop an educational model that connects students with expert support to cooperatively develop an on-farm improvement project.

A farm becomes a classroom in land-based learning, giving students a way to learn about farming, raise community awareness about local food systems, and help farms apply sustainable agricultural practices.



## ON-FARM experiential learning

**Winter:** Form a Sustainable Agriculture Education team in each Intermediate School District consisting of a teacher, farmer, and Extension technical assistance. Farmer interaction in classroom discussions and the process of researching a solution.

**Spring:** Farm tour where students can learn about the on-farm issue they will be addressing. Students present a proposed project to the farm.

**Summer:** Summer internships for 9th-11th graders. On-farm project carried out with SARE funding.

**Fall:** Field day or outreach events to share the on-farm project with community.



AgBioResearch  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2017-38640-26916 through the North Central Region SARE program under project number LNC17-394. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



## CONTACT

**Abbey Palmer - [palmerab@msu.edu](mailto:palmerab@msu.edu) - (906) 439-5058**