

# The Student Experimental Farm

Department: Center for Sustainability

**Contact: Hunter Francis, [wfrancis@calpoly.edu](mailto:wfrancis@calpoly.edu)**

The Student Experimental Farm (SEF) is a unique campus resource perched on a hill next to the Compost Unit with a panoramic view of Cal Poly. It is home to an array of interdisciplinary projects focused on sustainable agriculture, permaculture, alternative energy and appropriate technology. Staff at the SEF facilitate academic, research, club and other student activities. Currently, the SEF is primarily used by the Garden Club, Polyponics, the Mycology Club and NRES Department classes. The many gardens on site feature an incredible diversity of plant life and provide habitat for a thriving ecology of wildlife. This makes the SEF a popular destination for field trips, laboratory exercises in many disciplines, agritourism or even a simple picnic or break from classes. Over the years, the site has served as a venue for many classes, gatherings and events, which can be arranged through the SEF farm manager. Proposals for meetings, student projects and on-going collaborations may be submitted for consideration through a project approval process. Activities at the SEF are overseen by the Agricultural Operations Department (Ag Ops) and the Center for Sustainability (CFS) within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). Founded by students in 1989, the SEF has been a beloved meeting spot for thousands of students for more than three decades and has often been called the "best kept secret on campus". Come check it out!

Website: [https://cfs.calpoly.edu/Student Experimental Farm](https://cfs.calpoly.edu/Student_Experimental_Farm)