

FARM PROGRAM

The mission of the Farm Program is “to introduce young people to interesting and exciting educational work opportunities from which they can become productive members of our community and work force.” The vision of the Farm Program is, “to equip young people with the skills and confidence to be entrepreneurial leaders, making our earth a better place to live.” The Quakerdale Farm Program will have a two pronged approach utilizing the Growing Power Concepts from Milwaukee, WI and developing micro businesses that will grow larger based on individual business plan successes. The key to this initiative is to develop interesting and creative enterprises that engage the interest and participation of the youth at Quakerdale. The success of this Program will also draw the interest of the business community for additional entrepreneurial business opportunities.

The Growing Power concepts involve the use of Hydroponics, Aquaculture, and Vermiculture in producing chosen commodities such as: fish, worms, worm castings, herbs, flowers, fruits, berries, and vegetables. This Ecosystem will operate throughout the year by including the use of a greenhouse, outside land plots and gardens. In addition, the Farm Program will include bee keeping and a small plot, 1 acre +/-, of berries, sweet corn, and pumpkins.

To implement this Ecosystem Based Concept, we will develop a small experimental model of Vermiculture, Hydroponics, and Aquaculture systems. This working model experiment will be located inside the renovated dairy barn. This model experiment will be tested and refined based on plant, fish and worm needs for healthy and productive yield outcomes. After it is operating and producing in an efficient manner, the goal is to duplicate this model in a larger greenhouse. In developing the bee keeping component to this Ecosystem, a local beekeeper will provide the bees and houses. The bee houses will be placed in an area where outside plot plants and flora will provide the bees nectar for honey production.

During the experimental stage, this Ecosystem Based Concept will be operated by volunteers, Quakerdale youth, and program staff. Quakerdale staff will utilize this Ecosystem for educational programming, life skills and remedial services training for youth. In addition to the greenhouse, outside plots and gardens will enhance programming and training opportunities for youth.

The second part of the program is to introduce Quakerdale products into the market place by developing business plans and initiating them on a micro scale to test their viability for business growth. Initially, the concept is to market Quakerdale products through our website’s online store and growing our marketing footprint through partnerships, including community events and programs.

These two approaches of using the Growing Power concepts and individual micro business initiatives will be the tools used to engage and educate young people to learn new skills and discover their talents. We believe we will grow a small program into more and more creative initiatives that will fulfill the mission and vision of the Quakerdale Farm Program.



