

## Food Security Online Education

*Submitted by Monty Crisp*

Several members of the CR-FAIR community have asked about worthwhile continuing education courses in food security. I have taken courses through the following websites and have found them useful, relevant, and user-friendly. All of the courses are available online, on-demand, and best of all – they are free! After three “brick and mortar” degrees, I fully endorse the flexibility of inexpensive, on-line continuing education taken in the comfort of home, especially on a cool wintry evening! Some links require registering online, but all are hassle free and legitimate. Let me know what you think, and enjoy the learning!

### 1. Land Use Planning:

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is located near Boston, and provides many courses, including several in land planning relevant to food security issues. The instructors are excellent and examine issues of the population / land pressure challenges and urban / rural interface issues that face many areas of North America. I recommend “Planning Fundamentals”, “Resolving Land Use Disputes”, and / or “Planning Fundamentals: Concepts in Land Use”.

<http://leo.lincolnst.edu/>

### 2. Cooperative Extension Curriculum Project, USDA

Food security education is supported through the US university agricultural extension system funded by the federal US Dept of Agriculture. There are numerous interactive online courses from which to choose, including titles such as “Integrated Pest Management for Organic Crops”, “Sustainable Agriculture”, and “Risk Management for Farm Managers”. See the left column for the course menu, log-on, and pick one of the several titles listed.

<http://cecp-online.org/>

### 3. Urban Agriculture:

This extensive course entitled “Feeding Cities in Anglophone Africa with Urban Agriculture” is from a curriculum given in Nairobi, Kenya by the Int’l Development Research Institute based in Ottawa. However, the UA principles covered are applicable in both developed and underdeveloped countries. It is very grass-roots, practical, and gender inclusive.

<http://ariadne.cs.kuleuven.be/cgmoodle/course/category.php?id=7>

#### 4. Food and Agriculture Organization courses

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is the United Nations organ that is mandated to address food security issues worldwide. I have consulted with the FAO, and the agency has a worthwhile educational program called Food Security Information for Action, which includes a dozen interactive courses. Subjects include food security policies, assessments, nutrition, markets, etc. The focus is toward their international programs, but the concepts have a North American application. Click on the Distance Learning link in the menu to view all free courses.

<http://www.foodsec.org/index.htm>

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