

Lessons in sustainability – the University of New Hampshire

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” – Peter Drucker

Sustainability needs us all, birds and frogs. What physicist Freeman Dyson wrote in his Einstein lecture about mathematics applies to life – we tend to be either birds or frogs. Dyson: “Birds fly in the air and survey broad vistas of mathematics out to the far horizon. They delight in concepts that unify our thinking and bring together diverse problems from different parts of the landscape. Frogs live in the mud below and see only the flowers that live nearby. They delight in the details of particular objects, and they solve problems one at a time... The world of mathematics



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is both broad and deep, and we need birds and frogs working together to explore it.”

So with sustainability on all fronts. It's about seeing and creating connections, up close and across broad vistas.

Sean Fogarty is a University of New Hampshire SAFS (Sustainable Agriculture and Food

Systems) master's student working with fish and lettuce in the OASIS project, one of the newest sustainability projects on campus – one of many.

Fogarty checks the three newly constructed greenhouses perched atop a hill at the 360-acre Kingman Research Farm, located in Madbury, about two miles from the Durham campus. Primarily a research facility, current projects include research on horticultural and agronomic crops, wildlife management, and a part of the Great Bay oyster renovation effort.

As he agreed to allow me inside to view these hydroponic agricultural laboratories, he asked



Photo by D. QUINCY WHITNEY

Sean Fogarty, University of New Hampshire sustainable agriculture and food systems) masters student, checks the tilapia and lettuce growing on Kingman Research Farm in Madbury.