

Dinner meeting digs in to sustainable agriculture po

Project grows out of SCSU class discussions

By Sue Halena

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Regionally produced food will be on the minds and plates of a group meeting Tuesday in St. Cloud.

About 100 diners are expected at the Sustainable Agriculture Community Dinner, an event that focus-

es on food sources close to home. They'll find a buffet of whole-grain breads, cheeses, vegetables and maybe even a little soy-based sandwich meat.

The project started with discussions about globalization in a St. Cloud State University class, organizer

Maren Greathouse said. It quickly grew to include other groups that eschew a corporate system of food production relying on chemical treatments and genetic modification.

"We are completely dependent on (corporations) when we could be supporting neighbors," Greathouse said.

Those who go to the din-

ner will hear about preliminary plans for a community garden in the St. Cloud State neighborhood. A community garden has social and health benefits as it brings growers together in shared space, Greathouse said.

"What we're hoping to do is connect people at this event so we can get more community gardens in this

area," she said.

A \$300 grant from the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls is helping pay for the event. The Initiative Foundation also is promoting development of farmers markets in the region.

"We don't want this to be just a university event," Greathouse said. "We want the community to be involved."