BFN/Mass ASGAP Beginning Farmer Survey

Q14 Thank you for your willingness to take the Beginning Farmer Resources survey! This survey is part of a larger assessment of the resources available to beginning farmers in Massachusetts and is a project of the Beginning Farmer Network of Massachusetts. Your feedback will help to highlight quality existing resources as well as identify resource gaps. Thank you for your time!

Q1.1 What is your age?

* under 25 years old (1)
* 26-40 years old (2)
* 41-60 years old (3)
* 61 years and older (4)

Q1.2 How many total years of farming experience do you have?

* 0 years (1)
* 1-3 years (2)
* 4-7 years (3)
* 8-10 years (4)
* 10 + years (5)

Q1.3 What level of experience do you have in your current agricultural enterprise?

* 0 years (1)
* 1-3 years (2)
* 4-7 years (3)
* 8-10 years (4)
* 10 + years (5)

Q1.4 How many acres do you currently have in active production?

* Less than 1 acre (1)
* 1-5 acres (2)
* 6-20 acres (3)
* 21-50 acres (4)
* 51-100 acres (5)
* More than 100 acres (6)

Q1.5 In which region of Massachusetts do you access resources for your farming enterprise?

* Southeast (1)
* Northeast (2)
* Metro Boston (3)
* Cape and Islands (4)
* Central Mass (5)
* Pioneer Valley (6)
* Berkshires (7)

Q1.6 Please enter your zip code

Q1.7 In which of the following agricultural enterprises are you involved? (Please select all that apply).

* Vegetables (1)
* Fruit & Berries (2)
* Flowers (3)
* Herbs (4)
* Grains / dry beans / oil / seeds (for human consumption) (5)
* Greenhouse (6)
* Nursery (7)
* Poultry (8)
* Laying Hens (9)
* Livestock (10)
* Dairy (11)
* Forages/Hay (12)
* Feed Grain (13)
* Sugar Maple (14)
* Wood Products (15)
* Forestry (16)
* Fiber (17)
* Other (18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q2.1 We are trying to get a sense of beginning farmers’ most pressing resource, skill and training needs and capture your opinion and experience using resources that currently exist.   For the purposes of this project, we are defining a resource as: ·         Extended training/Educational Program ·         Support Service/Technical Assistance ·         Event/Workshop ·         Publication/Info Tool ·         Network/Association The question below is designed to assess the availability and quality of resources in each of the resource categories in the left-hand column. These resource categories were taken from the DACUM occupational profile for a Northeastern U.S. small-scale, sustainable farmer; DACUM ("Developing a Curriculum") profiles incorporate the use of focus groups to capture the major duties, tasks, knowledge, skills, and traits included in an occupation.

Q2.2 For each resource category in the following table please check the box that seems most appropriate regarding your experience finding quality resources in that resource category. Please check “Not Applicable” if the resource category is not relevant to your farm business. For an expanded description of each resource category, hover over the resource category title.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Found resources & they met my needs (1) | Found resources & they partially met my needs (2) | Found resources & they did NOT meet my needs (3) | Found resources but haven't used them yet (4) | Have looked and cannot find any resources (5) | Not applicable (6) |
| Whole Farm Planning (1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Set up/Start up Farm Business (2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manage Farm Business (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pursue Education & Professional Development (4) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nourish Family & Community Relations (5) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manage Farm Labor Resources (6) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manage Tools, Equipment and Supplies (7) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manage Farm Infrastructure (8) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manage Production & Natural Resources (9) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raise Livestock (10) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raise Crops (11) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Market Farm Product & Services (12) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review & Re-Plan Whole Farm (13) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q2.3 Please list up to three of the most helpful resources you have used and where you found them (organization, website, etc.).

Q2.4 What is your preferred method of receiving or accessing resources, training, information, and education?

* Technical assistance for specific issues from an agricultural service provider (1)
* Field days and farm tours (2)
* Web-based education (i.e. online classes, webinars, videos, etc.) (3)
* Online or print publications (i.e. newsletters, manuals, factsheets, directories) (4)
* Established mentoring relationship with an experienced farmer (5)
* Classroom, seminar, and workshop-based resources and education (6)
* Apprenticing/on-farm experience and/or employment (7)
* Other (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q2.5 What are your top three current needs for success in farming?

Q2.6 Do you have any additional comments or advice about current resources or resource gaps for beginning farmers in Massachusetts?