

# Farmer Programs Support:



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



Welcome to



Class of 2021-2022

GUIDEPOST #1

*Respect yourself and  
one another*

GUIDEPOST #2

*Everyone takes  
responsibility for the  
quality of  
the conversation*

GUIDEPOST #3

*All participants  
have a voice  
and are deeply heard*

GUIDEPOST #4

*Nothing about us,  
or for us,  
without us*

GUIDEPOST #5

*Lean into discomfort  
and disagreement*



Our mission is to inspire, educate, and support people to farm, garden, and live organically.

- **To increase the number of viable organic farmers and successful home growers in Western NC.**

Our Vision is to build a mutually supportive network of prosperous farmers, productive gardeners and informed consumers engaged in creating healthy communities.

# Annual Spring Conference

Practical, region-appropriate, affordable education on organic growing, homesteading and rural living .

In 2021, will be a series of online and recorded sessions, with small in person events possible, in March



**SPRING  
CONFERENCE**

March 6-8, 2020 • Mars Hill University

# Home Grower Programs



# Farmer Programs

- Farmer to worker/apprentice matching service
- Consumer oriented directory



# Farmer Programs

- Holistic Crop Management
- Advanced Beginning farmer support-  
Journey person and Mentor Services
- CRAFT



Organic  
Growers  
School

**HOLISTIC**  
CROP MANAGEMENT

**A Workshop Series for Small-Scale Farmers**

*Gain tools to manage soil health, weeds,  
pests and diseases for whole-farm success.*



Organic  
Growers  
School

**JOURNEYPERSON**  
FARMER PROGRAM



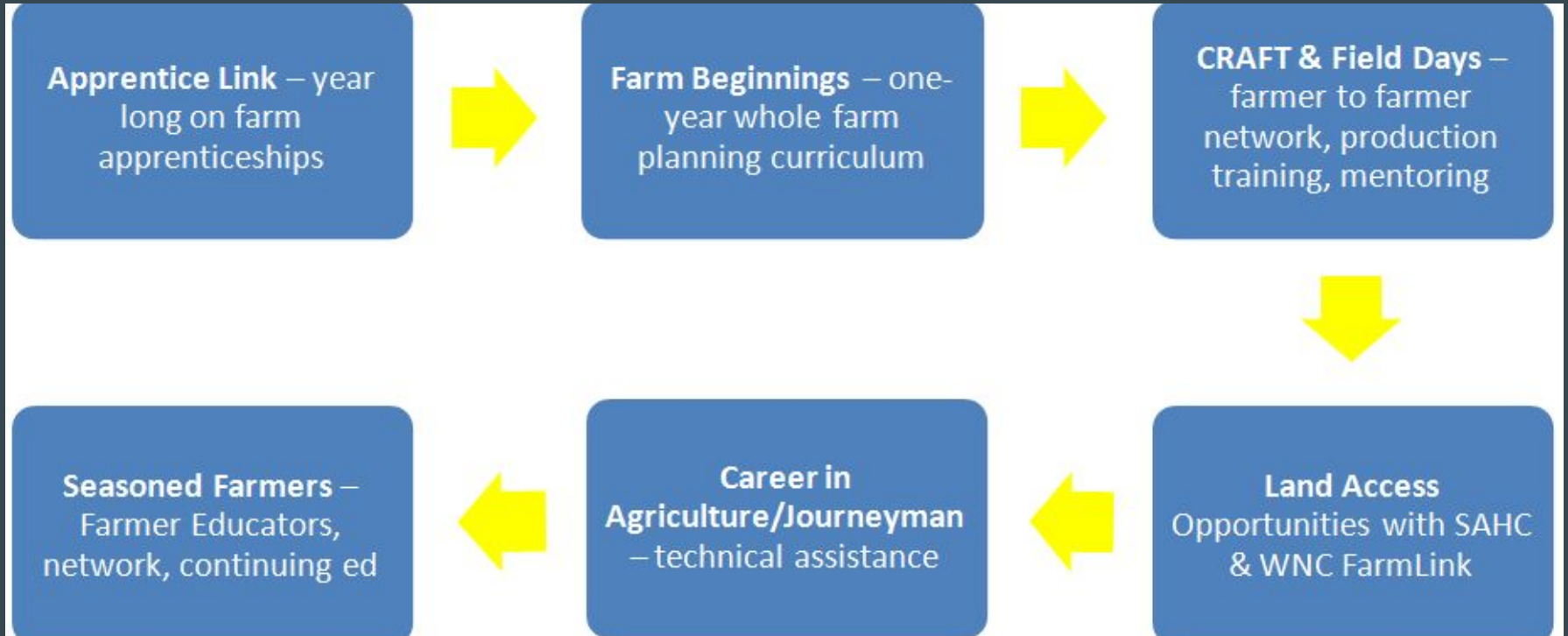


CRAFT  
FARMER NETWORK



- Farmer Network
- Farmer driven & farmer led
- 600+ farmers trained
- Experienced farmers: network
- Beginning farmers: mentors
- Apprentices: overview of different farming methods
- Meet 1 to 2 times per month  
March through October

# Farm Pathways Partnership



**NC STATE**

EXTENSION

NC FarmLink

# Farm Beginnings Collaborative

- Started by Land Stewardship Project – 1997
- A farmer training model that is community based, rooted in sustainable principles, and farmer led.
- Trained over 1500 farmers, 79% have stayed in farming

## Other Members:

- Land Stewardship Project, MN
- Angelic Organics Learning Center, IL
- The Land Connection, IL
- Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener Association, ME
- NOFA, Vermont
- FAARMS, ND
- Dakota Rural Action, SD
- Nebraska Sustainable Ag Society, NE
- Food Works, IL
- Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association, OH
- Grow NYC, New York

# Outcomes of the Farm Beginnings Course

- Discover and articulate your core values and goals
- Plan for the environmental sustainability of your farm
- Plan for financial viability of your enterprises
- Recognize and attend to the communities that you wish to serve and that sustain your farm
- Develop a strong network with one another and with area farmers to help you on your way



# Final Whole Farm Plan



1. A Holistic Goal
2. Enterprise Timeline
3. Enterprise Budgets
4. Growing Season learning Plan
5. Final Presentation

# Dates:

Thursdays:

- October 28th
- November 4th, 11th, 18th
- December 2nd, 9th, 15th (in person), December 16th

**2022:**

- January 6th, 13th, 20th (in person), 27th
- February 10th, 17th, 24th
- March 10th, 24th (one of these may be in person)

**IN PERSON DATES:**(We will keep updated on all current Covid concerns to make a final decision)

**NOT MANDATORY**

- Dec 16th TBD
- Jan 20th TBD
- March TBD

# Resources:

## Farm Beginnings Binder:

- Farm Beginning program info, teacher info, agreements, etc in front of binder
- Has activities and readings and resources for each session topic
- Portfolio section for completed work
- Additional resources at end.

## Thumb Drive:

- Each Session has readings and homework

## Email:

- I will send 2 emails a week, detailing assignments, where to find them, what to read/ do, etc. I may send additional videos or readings as well.

# Attendance Policy

Attendance at 75% of total course time:

- 13 Winter classroom sessions: must attend at least 10
- CRAFT: must attend at least 4
- Conferences: must attend at least 1. Both (2) preferable

Total estimated program events: = 14 events must be attended, plus 10 hours mentorship.

We will maintain some flexibility in this in 2021-2022 due to Covid 19. These are our normal requests regarding attendance.



# Contact Info:

Co-Facilitators:

Kimmy Hunter [kimmy@reiwnc.com](mailto:kimmy@reiwnc.com)

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