

07/20/2023

Dear Texas Center for Local Food,

I'm a food systems educator and farm manager in Austin specializing in community outreach around the role of food and land management in a resource-responsible economy. I run the East Austin location of Green Gate Farms, an "agrihood" that prioritizes connecting farming and sustainable living to surrounding the community.

If your application is selected for funding, I will support this project by participating in the topic team responsible for reviewing and developing the Texas Farm-Based Education Workbook. My work experience includes developing lesson plans and hosting various events, such as classes, school field trips, farm summer camps, trainings, and social gatherings for students, Green Gate interns, new farmers, culinary students, and agrihood community members. This experience will provide valuable personal insights for shaping the curriculum's content and formatting.

Witnessing the power of intentional educational engagement on the farms' connection to community, I'm excited about the plan to create this workbook for farmers. Strengthening the bond between communities and food growers fosters food system resilience and lays the groundwork for prioritization frameworks in future policies and food culture. The Texas Farm-Based Education Workbook is a unique opportunity to support farmers while shaping the next generation of the Texas food system through education and community building.

I will participate in and support the 2024-25 Texas Farm-Based Education Workbook proposal for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026 in the following way(s):

- Participation in at least 5 virtual meetings to provide feedback during the workbook development process
- Occasional asynchronous work throughout the process
- Participation in 1-2 in-person field day workshop events

Sincerely,
Morgan Urich