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The Cumberland River Compact Announces A New Course for Farmers: “Terra Firma: A Six-Session Course to Build Your Farm Business on Solid Ground”

Nashville, TN — The Cumberland River Compact affirms its commitment to helping our region’s farmers succeed not only in their conservation initiatives but also in their business goals with the rollout of a new course to help farmers succeed in the business of farming. The class, “Terra Firma: A Six-Session Course to Build Your Farm Business on Solid Ground” will kick off in January 2024 and feature experts at the intersection of farming and business management.

The course will cover five major facets: finances and record keeping; project management; whole farm planning; labor management; and grants, loans, and financial services. Notable instructors from across the region and the country will teach the course, giving farmers access to an incredible wealth of information from experts in the field. The Nashville Food Project will serve as the class meeting location.

“We’re offering a master class of farm business management tailored to our region and watershed,” says the Cumberland River Compact’s Working Lands Program Manager, Caroline Hutchins. “We’re even offering a select number of \$500 stipends to student-farmers and dinner from some beloved local restaurants.”

“Terra Firma” falls under the Compact’s River Friendly Farms program, an initiative launched in Tennessee in 2020 to promote and support farmers whose practices protect our shared water resources. With 40% of the state’s landmass dedicated to agriculture, the Compact knows that we can’t talk about water health without talking about farming.

Addressing the root causes of water pollution takes many forms and is demonstrated in the multifaceted work the Compact takes on. “Terra Firma” is the latest example of the Compact’s dynamic approach to partnering with individuals and businesses to be smart, impactful stewards of their watershed.

About Cumberland River Compact: The mission of the Cumberland River Compact is to enhance the health and enjoyment of the Cumberland River and its tributaries through education, collaboration, and action. <https://cumberlandrivercompact.org/>