

Building and Strengthening Social and Economic Sustainability Among NY State Black Farmers

Draft Verification Tools: [A\) Draft Baseline Assessment](#), and [B\) Draft Assessment of Skill Share](#)

A) Draft Baseline Assessment - *This verification tool will be used as a registration form for skillshares, workshops and other programming to begin to inform beneficiaries about the project content and goals, the performance target, the planned milestones and verification activities as well as gather essential baseline information.*

Online Registration Form

Thank you for your interest in the skillshare series, part of a three-year project -- “Building and Strengthening Social and Economic Sustainability Among NY State Black Farmers.”

Guided by five BIPOC-led organizations across the state, this project will increase agricultural sales and improve mental health, well-being, community connections and social sustainability for 50 Black farmers and food systems actors through webinars, farmer-to-farmer skillshares, networking, resource-linking and the creation of a farmer-led marketing co-op.

This project is funded by Northeast SARE. We will share the knowledge garnered with the larger community of Black farmers and service providers to foster more support for Black farmers nationwide.

Learn more about the project at www.buffalogogreen.org/blackfarmersproject (*not live, but will include extensive information on project milestones, content and other efforts to ensure participants’ informed consent.*)

Project Partners:

- Black Farmer Fund
- Buffalo Go Green
- Farm School NYC
- Food for the Spirit
- Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust

Please share the following information to join any of our upcoming skillshares, and learn more about other offerings as part of this project.

1. Do you identify as Black? *

- Yes, I identify as Black.
- No, I don't identify as Black.

2. Contact Information:

- Your Name and Pronoun *
- Name of Farm / Organization *
- Address (*Street, City, State/Province, Zip, Country*)
- Link to your farm's website
- Email *
- Phone

3. What type(s) of farm/farming are you involved in?

Please choose all that apply

- Apiary
- Aquaculture
- Commercial farm
- Cooperative farm
- Dairy farm
- Dry farm
- Family farm
- Flower farm
- Hay farm
- Hobby farm
- Micro farm
- Orchard
- Organic farm
- Poultry farm
- Ranch
- Rice farm
- Subsistence farm
- You pick (U-pick) farm
- Urban farm
- Vineyard

4. Have you grown \$1000.00 or more of agricultural products in the last year?

- Yes
- No

5. What marketing strategies do you currently use?

Please choose all that apply

- Farmers markets
- On-Farm Sales
- Agritourism
- CSA
- Direct Marketing of Meat and animal products
- Value-added products
- Sales to restaurants
- Sales to institutions (schools, hospitals, community centers, etc.)
- Cooperative marketing campaigns (e.g., Buy Local)
- Online

6. Please estimate your need for support based on the following scale:

1 = "I feel I need support in this area of my life"

5 = "I feel grounded and supported in this area of my life"

	1	2	3	4	5
Community Connections (contribution in local services, quality of non-agricultural relationships, social contribution, and regional presence of agriculture)					
Entrepreneurship (including business formation, use of advisory services, vision, human resources management),					
Equity (including social justice; and farmer access to capital, land, technical assistance, and other services),					

Farm Succession (business continuity, retirement and estate planning, land transfers)					
Health and Well-Being (work and family balance, satisfaction, social support, health and stress, social and professional relationships).					

7. In which areas of professional development could you offer support? Would you want support? *Check all that apply*

Knowledge Area	I have knowledge to share.	I want to learn more.
Business planning		
Applying for grants and/or loans, fundraising		
Strategic planning, project development		
Non-profit planning - 501(c)3, board development, etc.		
Public speaking / storytelling / media skills		
Leadership development, management skills		
Basic accounting		
Marketing & branding		
Legal assistance - setting up land trusts, cooperatives, etc.		
Soil health and care		
Ruminants - sheep, goats, buffalo etc. for milk, meat, fiber		
Poultry - chickens, turkeys, fowl, ducks etc. for eggs or meat		
Small livestock - pigs, rabbits etc. for meat		
Mixed vegetables - okra, onions, peas etc.		
Small fruits - berries, grapes, kiwi, etc.		
Nuts - hazelbert, acorns, walnuts, etc.		

Tree fruits - apple, peach, plum, etc.		
Forest management - wildlife, firewood, recreation, timber		
Wildcrafting and foraging - wild edibles, medicinals		
Culinary herbs - basil, parsley, thyme etc.		
Medicinal herbs - echinacea, sage, chamomile etc.		
Value added food products - sauces, jams, dried foods etc.		
Value added medicinal products - teas, tinctures etc.		
Mushrooms		
Honey Bees		
Fiber crops - flax, cotton, nettle etc.		
Plants for natural dyes - indigo, madder, sunflower, etc.		
Grains - oats, rice, sorghum, etc.		
Seed keeping		
Maple syrup		
Greenhouse products - vegetable and herb seedlings		
Cut Flowers		
Hemp - CBD, fiber		
Compost - high volume for sale		
Regenerative pasture management		
Agroecology, agroforestry, polycultures		
Tree nursery		
Urban gardening		
Equipment and tools - small engine repairs, equipment use, making DIY gardening tools, mechanical skills, etc.		
Carpentry		

B) Draft Assessment of Skill Share - This assessment will collect baseline data about participants' knowledge and skills, and about attitudes and potential obstacles to change.

The before/after questions provide baseline and post-event responses to assess the skillshare's influence on learning.

Mushroom Production Assessment - SAMPLE

Please rate yourself on the competencies below based on the following scale:

1 = "I have no knowledge or experience with this"

5 = "I know this so well I could teach this to someone with little or no help"

Competencies	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the different methods of cultivation, both indoor and outdoor, and can describe the pros and cons of different methods					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					
I can outline the infrastructure needs and costs of production for each commercial method					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					
I am able to distinguish between the advantages and disadvantages of growing substrates					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					
I can lead people through the steps of inoculation for logs, straw, and sawdust blocks					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					
I can describe the necessary conditions for managing inoculated material from growth to fruiting					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					
I can address common pests and disease issues with specialty mushroom production					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					
I am familiar with specialty mushroom enterprise budgets for starting an operation					
- BEFORE the skill share					
- AFTER the skill share					

I understand legal and regulatory aspects of specialty mushroom production				
- BEFORE the skill share				
- AFTER the skill share				

Below are some recommendations lifted up at the skill share. Please circle the response that best expresses your future intention.

Competencies	I was doing this before.	I plan to do this next growing season.	I have no intention of doing this.	I need more information before doing this.
Grow shiitake mushrooms on logs	DOING BEFORE	PLAN TO DO	NO PLANS	NEED MORE INFO
Grow oyster mushrooms on straw	DOING BEFORE	PLAN TO DO	NO PLANS	NEED MORE INFO
Grow wine caps in perennial beds	DOING BEFORE	PLAN TO DO	NO PLANS	NEED MORE INFO

If you circled “need more info,” please share what information or assistance you need.

What did you like best about this skill share?

What feedback would you provide for your skill-share facilitators?

Additional thoughts, comments, suggestions: