2010 GROWING NEW FARMERS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Farm Catskills and its partners want to encourage new farmer development in Delaware County. In order to succeed, new farmers need access to credit, land and equipment, as well as on farm training to develop their farm skills, and training and assistance to develop a sound business plan. Farm Catskills wants to help new farmers, by being their "one stop" to link you with the resources you need to farm successfully.

In addition to providing information and links to resources like loans and grants, business planning and microenterprise training, and peer learning groups, Farm Catskills has two opportunities for new farmers:

- The New Farmer Incubator, which provides affordable land and equipment rentals in a supportive community for new farmers with a sound business plan and the experience needed to farm successfully. We have prime soils available in 1-5 acre plots in Delaware County, NY for organic producers. For non-organic producers, or for those who need larger tracts of land (for example for grazing), we will work with you to find the appropriate land for your new farm.

- Growing New Farmers training program, which provides paid on-farm internships (up to 6 months) and individualized learning plans for people who demonstrate a commitment to agriculture and a need to further develop their own farming skills and knowledge. This is a program for people who are working towards a career or a business in farming.

Because this is a highly tailored, individualized program where we work one on one with a potential new farmer, the first step is to fill out and submit the application and self-assessment form. Farm Catskills will follow up with you and will work with you to determine how the Growing New Farmers program can help meet your farming goals.

Program specific requirements

New Farmer Incubator applicants will go through an interview process with Farm Catskills and a farmer committee. Criteria for joining the New Farmer Incubator includes:

- Sound Business Plan
- Minimal one to three years farm experience
- Resources to cover living expense
- Willingness and ability to farm organically (for certain locations)
- Good community member, openness to feedback and communication

New Farmer Training Program applicants will also go through an interview process, first with Farm Catskills, and then with the farmer with whom they would be placed for an internship. Both Farm Catskills and the farmer host site must approve the applicant before they are accepted for the paid internship. Farm Catskills will work with the applicant to develop an individualized learning plan, which both the applicant and the farmer host will agree to.

GROWING NEW FARMERS PROGRAM
APPLICATION / ASSESSMENT

(Please submit this form electronically. For an electronic copy, email INFO@FARMCATSKILLS.ORG.)

Contact Information and Background

Name:

Current address:

Phone: Email:

1. Please describe the type of farm business you are interested in:

2. Please describe your needs: are you looking to get training, and/or are you interested in starting your own farm? Or are you looking to diversify an existing farm. Give us as much detail as you can about your goals and needs at this point. What resources do you need to help meet your goals?

3. Tell us about your experience farming so far.

Demographic Information (this information will be kept confidential, and separate from the rest of your application. This information is not used to determine whether you will be accepted into the training program or incubator program -this section helps us gather data about the demographics of who is interested in the program for our funders and partners.)

1. Your age:

2. Sex (circle one): Female Male

3. Your primary race / ethnicity (optional):

   _____ White / not Hispanic or Latino

   _____ White / Hispanic or Latino

   _____ Black or African American

   _____ American Indian

   _____ Asian

   _____ Other _____

4. Number of people in your household.

5. What county and state are you currently living in?

6. What is the highest degree or level of school you have attained?

   _____ No schooling

   _____ Elementary / middle school (8th grade)

   _____ Some high school

   _____ High school graduate or GED equivalent

   _____ 1 or more years of college, no degree

   _____ Associates college degree

   _____ Bachelors college degree

   _____ Masters degree

   _____ Professional degree (for example MD, DDS, JD)

   _____ Doctorate degree

<u>Program Specific Application Information</u>

On-farm internship applicants only:

1. What type of farm would you like to work with, and what are three things you most want to learn from a paid internship experience?

2. Please share a brief work history. We will ask you for references later in the process.

3. Do you currently have housing and transportation in Delaware County?

4. What are your future plans after completing an on-farm training program?

New Farmer Incubator applicants only:

1. Do you have resources to cover living expenses while you start your farm?

2. Tell us what crops, goods, or livestock you plan to grow, and approximately what size you think your farm will be for the first 2-3 years. How many acres do you need to begin?

3. Are you interested in starting your farm in 2010, or another season?

4. Do you have a written business plan, or do you need assistance to develop one?

5. Do you plan to farm using organic practices?

6. Do you intend to be certified organic?

7. Do you need to rent land and/or equipment? How many acres, and what equipment do you need?

8. What else do you need in order to get started (for example insurance, mentoring, financing).

9. How do you see your farm in three to five years?

10. Is there anything else you think we should know about you at this juncture?