

FARM BEGINNINGS CLASS

Many skills are required to start a successful farm: passion, clear goals, production experience, financial and marketing know-how, and good decision-making.

Farm Beginnings is designed for farmers in their first 10 years of farming who want to plan a profitable farm business. It can also be helpful to people exploring their farm dreams. Students do not need to currently own land, but some farming or production experience is helpful to get the most out of the class.

From a Farm Beginnings Graduate:

"(what we learn in Farm Beginnings) helps us decide how to change what we're doing to reach our goal as well as provides the reinforcement to say, 'You know what? Nope, that's not working.'"

To see how graduates are using what they've learned to succeed in farming visit LSP's website:

www.farmbeginnings.org

Farm Beginnings 2018-2019

Class Dates

Session 1: Saturday, October 27

Goal Setting - Quality of Life

Session 2: Saturday, November 10

Goal Setting – Commitments, Resources and Soil Health

Session 3: Saturday, December 1

Beginning Farmer Panel and Intro to Personal Finances

Session 4: Saturday, December 15

Introduction to Holistic Financial Planning

Session 5: Saturday, January 12

Enterprise Investigation: Defining your Market and Pricing

Session 6: Thursday, January 31

Marketing and Branding with Buyers Panel

Session 7: Saturday, February 16

Record Keeping and Accounting

Session 8: Saturday, March 2

Legal Issues, Business Structure and Resources for Beginning Farmers

Session 9: Saturday, March 16

Final Presentations of Farm Proposals

www.farmbeginnings.org

FARM BEGINNINGS



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FARM BEGINNINGS

The 2018 - 2019 Class will meet in Rochester, MN

Whole Farm Planning: Farm Beginnings introduces you to Holistic Management and guides participants through a process for making better financial decisions that move farmers toward stewardship, wealth generation and improved quality of life.

Enterprise Planning:

Farm Beginnings guides participants through the research and development of a new enterprise and provides important information about farm business structure, taxes and risk management.

Next Steps and Connecting to

Resources:

Participants will identify and prioritize next steps including production and financial skills they need to develop as well as investments that will give them the biggest bang for their buck.

The Farm Beginnings class is a year-long training program that helps beginning farmers clarify their goals and strengths, establish a strong enterprise plan and start building their operation. The course uses a mix of farmer-led sessions, on-farm tours, and an extensive farmer network.

Farm Beginnings is approved as an educational provider through the Farm Service Agency. Completion of the course fulfills the educational requirements for FSA loan applicants. Course tuition is \$1500. Deposit due with registration is \$200. Fee covers up to 2 people per family or farm. Scholarships are available and fee can be reimbursed through the MN Beginning Farmer Tax Credit for qualified beginning farmers.

For further assistance or questions contact Karen Benson at karenb@landstewardshipproject.org or by phone at 507-523-3366 or visit www.farmbeginnings.org

Exploring farming?

Farm Dreams might be your best next step.

Farm Dreams a four-hour workshop designed to help people clarify what motivates them to farm, get their vision on paper, inventory their strengths and training needs and gain perspective from an experienced farmer.

Farm Dreams
Sunday, September 23rd
1:00 - 5:00 pm
@ LSP office in Minneapolis

The cost of the workshop is \$20 for LSP members and \$40 for non-members. Each registration fee covers up to two people per family or farm.

Email Annelie at

annelie@landstewardshipproject.org to register

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