

2013

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Teaching Farm
Incubator Farm Program
Application Packet



Pilot Program



Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
We feed. We teach. We grow.

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Teaching Farm

Incubator Farm Program

The goal of the IFFS Incubator Farm Program is to support and grow new viable, independent farm businesses and to serve as a model new-farmer program.

The IFFS Teaching Farm *Incubator Farm Program* provides parcels of land for vegetable, cut flower, or herb production and sales. This program also provides equipment and mentorship for beginning farmers. As of 2013, the program is for participation for up to three years with more support offered the first year and less support as farmers establish themselves.

****Please return Application & Contract to Kay Coleman – Kay@foodshuttle.org**

What is included in this packet:

1. Description of program
 - a. Expectations and Requirements
 - b. Responsibilities and Benefits
2. Incubator Farmer Application
3. Incubator Farm Contract
4. Resource List

Expectations and Requirements

- **Minimum 1 year commitment.** Maximum 3 year involvement in the program.
- Minimum 6 months of farming experience or training (combination of education, on-farm experience, internship or apprenticeships).
- Commitment to growing by **organic standards** (no synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, fumigants, hormones, or unnecessary antibiotics) and sustainable agricultural practices such as compost amendments, crop rotations, cover-cropping and IPM.
- Commitment to **local marketing** of your products.
- Willingness to **be a good IFFS Teaching Farm community member**. Open to feedback, collaboration, and communication with IFFS Farm staff and volunteers.
- **Completion of Farmer Application** (page 4) and Interview with Farm Managers
- If accepted into the program, **participation in the following meetings with IFFS Farm Managers**.
Check list will be provided upon acceptance to the program.
 1. IFFS farm training, review of requirements (prior to beginning program)
 2. Review of your farm/plot plan with IFFS Farm manager (prior to beginning program) – Plan must include a crop plan and schedule, as well as an outline of what resources you have and will need to complete that plan. Assistance in developing this plan available from Farm Managers.
 3. Weekly check ins with Farm Manager.
 4. Equipment trainings on all farm equipment (i.e. BCS tiller).
 5. Review and evaluation each January (including your evaluation of program & IFFS staff).

Responsibilities and Benefits

Incubator farmer is responsible for:

- Maintaining a tidy and clean plot (free of weeds, pests, un-used equipment, etc)
- Collectively maintaining the farm, equipment, buildings and tools
- Treating fire-ants on your plot with organic bait provided by IFFS
- Maintaining irrigation and/or drip tape and header. Supplies will be provided by IFFS at the beginning of each year. Incubator farmer is responsible for purchasing replacement or additional supplies.
- Providing your own produce packing supplies (may be purchased in bulk from IFFS)
- Purchasing additional compost if needed beyond IFFS first spring load.
- Leaving your plot as you found it when you complete the program (Cover cropping, weed seed reduction)
- Donating 3 hours/week of general farm work to IFFS farm. Schedule and task determined by the Farm Managers. Incubator Farmer is responsible for recording volunteer hours weekly in the farm office.
- Signing and agreeing to the program contract.

IFFS will provide:

- Water as available for the whole farm; Farm Manager will coordinate watering schedule for incubator plots.
- Drip tape, header and connectors at the beginning of each year.
- One layer of compost each spring
- Use of IFFS Farm wheel barrows and hand tools (Unless needed by large volunteer groups at the farm)
- Use of BCS cultivator (after training and with permission from the Farm Manager)
- Inclusion of your produce at markets for 30% gross
- Fertilizer, compost, supplies, seeds and transplants at cost (coordinate with Farm Manager). Financial assistance and payment plans available if needed.

Other details to note:

- Incubator farmer cannot sell their produce or set up a farm stand on the farm or within 1 mile of the farm except at the Food Shuttle Farm stand.
- Incubator farmer has access to assigned plot only; he or she may not use other parts of the farm without staff permission.
- This is a pilot program for IFFS. We reserve the right to change our policies and paper work on an annual basis.

Program Cost: IFFS does not charge a fee for participation in the program. Incubator farmers will have their own expenses for supplies. Financial assistance and payment plans available if needed.

Incubator Farmer Application

****Please return Application & Contract to Kay Coleman – Kay@foodshuttle.org**

Farmer Name _____

Partner Name (if any) _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____

Best way to contact you _____

Please complete the following questions: (Please limit to 2 pages max)

1. Describe the type of farm enterprise you wish to establish at IFFS Farm (vegetable, herbs etc).
2. Describe your experience farming (especially in regard to this type of farm enterprise.)
3. Please describe your needs to meet your farming goals: training, equipment, materials, planning, financial assistance.
4. What are your marketing plans, or plans for using produce otherwise?

5. Do you have a written business plan already, or will you need assistance preparing one? Please share what you have developed if so. However, please also note that you do not have to have experience with business plans to enter this program.

6. What experience do you have growing organically?

7. What are your long-term farming goals? 3 years? 5 years?

8. Is there anything else that you think we should know about you or your farming goals at this point?

9. Please provide 3 character references outside your immediate family:
Name _____
Relationship to you _____
Email address and phone number _____
Number of years that they have known you _____

Name _____
Relationship to you _____
Email address and phone number _____
Number of years that they have known you _____

Name _____
Relationship to you _____
Email address and phone number _____
Number of years that they have known you _____

Incubator Farm Contract

I agree to these Expectations and Requirements of the program:

1. I agree to a minimum 1 year commitment to managing my farm plot.
2. I commit to growing by organic standards (no synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, fumigants, hormones, or unnecessary antibiotics) and sustainable agricultural practices such as compost amendments, crop rotations, cover-cropping and IPM. I agree to review all inputs and materials with Farm Managers.
3. I agree to sell my products locally.
4. I agree to be a good IFFS Teaching Farm community member: Open to feedback, collaboration, and communication with IFFS Farm staff and volunteers.
5. I will only use equipment and tools after training and as authorized by Farm Managers.
6. I agree to scheduling a weekly review of my plot and any changes to my farm plan with Farm Managers.
7. I agree to a review and evaluation in January each year and understand my ability to continue with the program is contingent upon a good rating on my review.
8. I understand I may not sell produce or set up a farm stand on the farm or within 1 mile of the farm.
9. I understand I have access to the assigned plot only and may not use other parts of the farm without staff permission.
10. I understand that this is a pilot program and that IFFS has the right to change the expectations, requirements, and details of the program on an annual basis.

I agree to these Responsibilities:

1. Maintaining a tidy and clean plot free of weeds, pests, un-used equipment, etc
2. Assisting with collectively maintaining the farm, equipment, buildings and tools.
3. Cleaning and putting away tools after use.
4. Treating fire-ants on your plot with IFFS provided organic control.
5. Maintaining irrigation and/or drip tape and header. Supplies will be provided by IFFS at the beginning of each year. Incubator farmer is responsible for purchasing replacement or additional supplies.
6. Leaving the plot as you found it when you complete the program (Cover cropping, weed seed reduction)
7. Donating 3 hours/week of general farm work to IFFS farm -- schedule and task determined by the Farm Managers. Incubator Farmer is responsible for recording volunteer hours weekly in the farm office.

IFFS agrees to provide:

1. Support and mentoring of best practices.
2. Water as available for the whole farm; Farm Manager will coordinate watering schedule for incubator plots.
3. Drip tape, header and connectors at the beginning of each year.
4. One layer of compost each spring
5. Use of IFFS Farm wheel barrows and hand tools
6. Use of BCS cultivator (after training and with permission from the Farm Manager)
7. Sales of your produce at markets - 30% of gross goes to IFFS
8. Fertilizer, compost, supplies, seeds and transplants at cost (coordinate with Farm Manager).
9. Some financial assistance and payment plans available.

Incubator Farmer Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Farm Manager Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Resource List for Beginning Farmers

Local Organizations

Center for Environmental Farming Systems

Bringing New Farmers to the Table Project provides a “new farmer toolbox” with resources around business planning, land access, marketing, and gaining credit

www.ncnewfarmers.org

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Founded in 1979, CFSA is the oldest and largest sustainable agriculture organization in the Southeast. For over three decades, they have successfully united farmers, consumers and businesses to build a just, healthy food and farming future. Find information on farm services, education, advocacy and food systems

www.carolinafarmstewards.org/forgrowers

North Carolina Cooperative Extension- Debbie Roos

<http://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu>

National Organizations

National Young Farmers Coalition

www.youngfarmers.org

The Greenhorns

www.thegreenhorns.net

Start2Farm

www.start2farm.gov

Beginning Farmers

www.beginningfarmers.org

Conferences

Organic Growers School

Asheville, NC

www.organicgrowersschool.org

CFSA Sustainable Agriculture Conference

Alternates annually between SC & NC

www.carolinafarmstewards.org/sac

Come to the Table

3 locations annually in NC

www.cometothetablenc.org

Southern SAWG

Little Rock, Arkansas

www.ssawg.org

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle www.foodshuttle.org Teaching Farm: 4505 Tryon Road, Raleigh, NC

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle pioneers innovative, transformative solutions designed to end hunger in our community.

Seeds

High Mowing Organic Seeds

<http://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

Sow True Seeds- Open Pollinated & Heirloom (local)

146 Church St Asheville, NC 28801

(828) 254-0708

<http://sowtrueseed.com/>

Johnny's Selected Seeds

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/>

Equipment* & Supplies

The Ag Review

Check here for local auctions (also check farm/equipment section of local newspapers)

<http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/agreview/>

Agrisupply

409 U.S. 70 Garner, NC

(919) 772-0865

<http://www.agrisupply.com/garner-north-carolina/a/87/>

Hudsons Hardware/Southern States

305 Benson Rd Garner, NC

(919) 772-4141

<http://www.hudsonshardware.com/>

Piedmont Feed

4805 NC Highway 54 West Chapel Hill, NC. 27516

919-932-PETS

<http://piedmontfeed.com/home/>

7Springs Farm- (online ordering, especially great for organic supplies)

426 Jerry Ln NE Check, VA 24072

(540) 651-3228

<http://www.7springsfarm.com/>