



GoFarm Incubator 2021 Extern Application

[GoFarm](#) is a non-profit organization with a mission to increase the supply of and access to affordable, fresh, healthy, local food in the state of Colorado. A large component of fulfilling this mission is providing farmer assistance through our farm incubator and access to a wholesale market.

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The GoFarm Incubator

The GoFarm Incubator offers a two-year Incubator Farmer track that is designed for beginning farmers who, upon graduation, are expected to launch or continue an independent urban or small scale farm business producing specialty crops. Incubator Farmers are provided year-round training, mentoring and technical assistance, as well as access to an urban farm plot, water, and equipment. The program is designed to allow Incubator Farmers to maintain a part-time job outside of the Incubator Farmer track. Find the full description and application [here](#).

The Incubator also offers a one-year externship that is focused on education around operating a farm business. The GoFarm externship is designed for people who are interested in learning more about local agriculture and/or who may want to start or scale up their own farm in the future. The externship is a great way to gain the necessary knowledge to become an Incubator Farmer. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about which track may best fit your goals.

Seasonal paid internships are also available. Interns work in the field with Incubator Farmers, assist with the Local Food Share, and attend workshops with incubator farmers and externs. For more information you can see the 2021 job description [here](#).

Who Should Apply

Aspiring farmers looking to explore urban agriculture and begin laying the groundwork for their farm enterprise. Beginning farmers who are looking for support in their existing businesses are encouraged to apply. The externship is a great way to gain the necessary experience to apply to be an incubator farmer. Externs are invited to apply for the seasonal internship as well to gain field experience. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), as well as members of the LGBTQIA+ community, refugees, immigrants, people with disabilities, and veterans are given priority in the application process.

Equity and Inclusion

We acknowledge that there is injustice in the current food system and that land and resources have been stolen and withheld from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color both in the present and historically. In order to provide land and capital to those who have been historically denied, we give priority admittance to those who identify as BIPOC farmers.

We support farmers of all backgrounds within the program and we work to ensure that we are prioritizing the experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ farmers. Therefore, we are seeking values aligned farmers to participate in this program who acknowledge the importance of anti racist work and who do not just accept but celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community.

You can read GoFarm's full equity statement [here](#).

Selection Criteria

Minimum requirements:

- Understanding of issues around equity and racism in the food system **or** openness to learning more about these issues and willingness to attend and participate in racial equity workshops.
- Demonstrated commitment to participating in the local food system
- Commitment to using sustainable farming practices
- Ability to work independently.
- Ability/commitment to complete coursework and attend workshops
- Ability to commit to the program for 1 year.
- Local housing and transportation
- 18 years of age or older

Beginning farmers who meet the following will have the most competitive applications:

- Priority admittance for BIPOC, women, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, refugees, immigrants, and veterans.
- Farmers who are already operating a farm enterprise that has been in business for 1-5 years.
- Applicants who have a business plan, or the beginnings of a business plan.
- Members and participants of the Mile High Farmers, the Black and Brown Grower's Collective, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and National Young Farmers Coalition.

Application and Selection Schedule

July 6th	Applications released
Saturday, July 31st 10am-11:30am Lakewood	Meet and Greet Farm Tour - to meet some of the GoFarm Staff and meet current incubator participants and get your questions answered! RSVP here . We have a limited capacity so RSVP early if you want to participate!
August 10th	Applications due
August 16th-August 27th	Interviews
August 27th- September 10th	Applicants informed of their acceptance
September 29th	Welcome and Orientation!
October 13th	Classes start

Program Fee

The externship has a \$600 fee for the full year program. Scholarships are available!

Program Benefits

- 17-Week Whole Farm Planning Course
- Monthly farm workshops March- October.
- 10 hours of mentorship
- Post graduation: Priority acceptance into the [Incubator Farmer](#) or [Internship](#) tracks

Extern Requirements

- Complete the Whole Farm Planning Course classes
 - Create a business management plan, crop plan, marketing plan, and food safety plan
- Attend all workshops
- Complete all entrance and exit survey as well as quarterly check ins

Whole Farm Planning Course Schedule

Classes will be on Wednesday evenings from 5-8pm. Classes will be in person and will include dinner to enjoy and network. The location of the class is still TBD but will most likely be in North Lakewood or Golden.

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
10/13/2021	Realities of farming with a farmer panel	1/12/2022	Soils
10/20/2021	Building your mission, vision, and values	1/19/2022	Crop diseases and Integrated Pest Management
10/27/2021	Exploring farm business models and product pricing	1/26/2022	Weed management and managing on farm labor
11/3/2021	Branding and marketing	2/2/2022	Accounting and bookkeeping
11/10/2021	Planning for efficiency through farm design and systems	2/9/2022	Risk management
11/17/2021	Crop planning	2/16/2022	Harvest and post harvest handling and effective record keeping
11/24/2021	Break for Thanksgiving	2/23/2022	Food safety
12/1/2021	Break for Hanukkah	3/2/2022	Break- work on presentations

12/8/2021	Materials and supplies- What do you really need and building a budget	3/9/2022	End of class party and presentations
12/15/2021	Irrigation	Virtual	Optional Elective- Seed Saving
12/22/2021	Winter Break	Virtual	Optional Elective- Cut Flowers
12/29/2021	Winter Break	Virtual	Optional Elective- Growing starts under lights
1/5/2021	Winter Break		

Application

Please apply by completing this [google form](#). You can use the below document to plan out your answers and copy and paste them into the form. Please be sure to pay attention to character limits, google forms won't notify you that you are over the limit until you hit submit.

Name: _____ Pronouns: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please copy and paste your responses to the following questions in the google form application:

- 1) How do you identify (**select all that apply**)(optional)? The following demographic information is voluntary and confidential, and helps us measure our success in including various segments of our community.
- 2) What does equity in the food system mean to you? *Character limit 2000*
- 3) Are you willing to participate in racial equity trainings (**multiple choice question**)?
- 4) How did you hear about the GoFarm Incubator?*Character limit 500*
- 5) Explain your interest in the GoFarm Incubator and how it fits into your future plans. *Character limit 1500*
- 6) Please describe your farming experience, if you have any. *Character limit 1500*

- 7) Are you currently farming (**multiple choice question**)?
- 8) Please describe your current farm business or the type of farm enterprise you are interested in creating. *Character limit 2000*
- 9) What do you expect to gain from this experience? *Character limit 1500*
- 10) Do you have local housing and transportation? (**multiple choice question**)
- 11) Are you ready to begin coursework on October 13th, 2021 (**multiple choice question**)
- 12) Are you in need of financial assistance to cover the extern fee? Answering yes to this question will not negatively impact your application. (**multiple choice question**)
- 13) Please share anything else you would like us to know! Thank you for applying and we will be in touch soon (**optional**). *Character limit 1500*

Please apply by completing this [google form](#).