



August 17, 2020

Dear Katie,

The mission of the Denver Botanic Gardens is to connect people in the Rocky Mountain region with plants. We feel that our commitment to demonstrating excellence in urban agriculture provides a unique opportunity to fulfill this mission while also making a lasting impact on our community. The Gardens operates several demonstration urban and peri-urban agriculture sites where students and visitors learn the skills and business of farming.

I'm writing today in reference to your recent RFA for land to build a teaching facility and working farm for your farmers in training. At the Botanic Gardens, we share a similar goal of providing the best education for new and beginning farmers in the Front Range. As our two organizations have partnered closely in the past in providing educational opportunities for this audience, I am delighted that you are pursuing a more permanent location that will further provide much needed training and experience to new farmers.

To that end, our organization is ready to provide our full support to you in your request for land and we hope to continue working closely with you in the future on all matters related to farmer training. Please feel free to share this letter with any interested parties. If you have any further questions, I can be reached at [brien.darby@botanicgardens.org](mailto:brien.darby@botanicgardens.org) or 303-859-0167.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brien Darby".

Brien Darby  
Manager of Urban Food Programs  
Denver Botanic Gardens



August 10, 2020

To whom it may concern:

Jefferson Conservation District (JCD) has been a proud GoFarm partner since 2014. As a conservation organization, we support GoFarm's mission to improve local food access. Recently, JCD and GoFarm have partnered to identify farmable urban/suburban land in Jefferson County to create mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and landowners. To assist new farmers that could engage this land access program, GoFarm is pursuing a suitable property to serve as the GoFarm Training Center, where farmers can get assistance in developing their new farming operations. JCD will participate by developing a conservation plan for the Center.

We look forward to a continued partnership with GoFarm and support their proposed Training Center project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garrett Stephens", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Garrett Stephens  
Director, Jefferson Conservation District



August, 8 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of GoFarm and their efforts to find land to serve as a centralized location for the Farmer Incubator program. As a beginning farmer, I have felt, first hand, the barriers to entry that exist for people who wish to pursue small-scale agriculture as a career. Regardless of passion and determination, a lack of access to capital, infrastructure, or mentorship make this career path seem all but impossible, especially in a metro area with a high cost of living like Denver. As an apprentice in GoFarm's Farmer Incubator, I can say that the support I receive in this program has allowed me to successfully design and execute the first season of my farm business. I'm certain that finding a centralized location for this incubator program would allow me, and future participants, to get the most out of the program in order to establish long-term, sustainable careers as producers of local, organically-grown food.

Currently, I farm on two plots in Lakewood. Though these plots are fairly close in proximity (about 10 minutes by car), splitting time, energy, and physical resources (such as tools) between two locations does take away from my ability to focus on what is most important. I believe having a central location with larger plots, shared tools, and shared infrastructure would increase my productivity exponentially, and would allow apprentices to deepen their hands-on learning experience as a whole.

Although I love the feeling of independence that this line of work allows, I know that farming is a communal activity. Farmers learn from each other, innovate together, and share resources in order to build up our chosen work. Having a physical space that fosters such cooperation would benefit each individual farmer apprentice, but would also serve as a model for how urban farmers should approach working collaboratively to move toward our shared goal of a robust, thriving local food system.

I can't say enough about the positive nature of GoFarm as an organization, and also with regard to their individual staff members. I feel strongly supported by Katie, the farmer incubator manager, and have only experienced open and clear communication with other GoFarm staff members. I am confident that anyone who contributes to GoFarm's operation will find the same. GoFarm's culture of kindness, support, and forward momentum makes them an excellent organization with which to align.

I am happy to provide additional explanation of the value that GoFarm already brings to beginning farmers and the many ways we all would benefit from access to a large, centralized physical space for our program.

Ashley Garfias  
Farmer Incubator Apprentice, *GoFarm*  
Owner and Farmer, *Paper Kite Farm*  
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