



## **GoFarm Beginning Farmer Training Program 2022 Whole Farm Planning Course Application**

[GoFarm](#) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to train and support local farmers, connect people with local agriculture, and increase equitable access to nutrient-rich food grown in Colorado. A large component of fulfilling this mission is supporting farmers through the GoFarm Beginning Farmer Training Program, as well as providing local farmers with access to a reliable wholesale market through our Local Food Share Program.

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## GoFarm's Beginning Farmer Training Program

The Beginning Farmer Training Program 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 Beginning Farmer Training Program also offers a 16-week Whole Farm Planning Course (WFPC) that is focused on education around operating a farm business. The GoFarm WFPC 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 WFPC is a great way to gain the necessary knowledge to become an Incubator Farmer.

Seasonal paid internships are also available for those with minimal experience looking to explore a career in agriculture. Interns work in the field with Incubator Farmers, assist with the Local Food Share, and attend workshops with incubator farmers and WFPC participants. Internship applications will be posted in the late winter/early spring for the following summer. Please email [info@gofarm.org](mailto:info@gofarm.org) for more information on the internship.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions about which track may best fit your goals.

## Who Should Apply

The WFPC caters to anyone looking to establish or fine-tune their career as a market farmer, including aspiring farmers looking to explore a career in urban agriculture and beginning farmers who are looking for support in their existing businesses. The WFPC is a great way to gain the necessary experience to apply to be an incubator farmer. Participants are invited to apply for the seasonal internship as well to gain on-farm experience following the conclusion of classes. Historically marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), 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 value-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
- Reliable transportation to attend classes
- 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 they are looking to refine
- 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 5th	Applications released
Saturday, July 30th 10am-11:30am Lakewood (Address will be sent after RSVP)	Meet and Greet Farm Tour - to meet some of the GoFarm Staff and meet current incubator participants and get your questions answered! RSVP <a href="#">here</a> . We have a limited capacity so RSVP early if you want to participate!

August 12th	Applications due
August 15th-August 26th	Interviews
August 27th- September 10th	Applicants informed of their acceptance
September 29th	Welcome and Orientation!
October 19th	Classes start

## Program Benefits

- 16-Week Whole Farm Planning Course
- Monthly farm workshops March- October
- 25 hours of paid mentorship from experienced local farmers
- Post graduation: Priority acceptance into the [Incubator Farmer](#) or Internship tracks

## Program Fee

The WFPC has a \$700 fee for the full year program. Scholarships are available!

## Program Requirements

- Complete the Whole Farm Planning Course classes
  - Create a business management plan, crop plan, marketing plan, and food safety plan
- Attend monthly workshops from March-October
- 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
10/19/2022	Realities of Farming with a Farmer Panel	1/11/2023	Farm Supply Budgets and Sourcing
10/26/2022	Mission, Vision, and Values: Defining Your "Why"	1/18/2023	Farm Supply Budgets and Sourcing
11/2/2022	Risk Management on the Farm-Taking Control of Your Creative Power	1/25/2023	Soils, Fertility, and Soil Testing
11/9/2022	Farm Business Models, Markets, and Pricing	2/1/2023	Farm Irrigation and Water Management
11/16/2022	Promoting and Branding Your Farm Business	2/8/2023	Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Weeds and Disease Control
11/23/2022	Break for Thanksgiving	2/15/2023	Elective #3- Seed Saving
11/30/2022	Farm Start-up, Systems, and Design - Planning for Efficiency	2/22/2023	Food Safety - Creating a Food Safety Plan
12/7/2022	Production Planning	3/1/2023	Labor: Managing Interns, Work-Shares, and Helpers
12/14/2022	Elective #1: Growing Starts Under Lights	3/8/2023	Farm Record Keeping
12/21/2022	Winter Break	3/15/2023	Accounting and Bookkeeping
12/28/2022	Winter Break	3/22/2023	Farm Plan Presentations and end of course celebration
1/4/2023	Elective #2- Cut Flowers For the Veggie Grower		

## 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 a reliable form of transportation to attend classes? (**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](#).**