

## Current Educational Enhancement Projects

Educational Enhancement Projects identify gaps in beginning farmer and rancher training and develop and conduct train-the-trainer projects to address those gaps. Thus they enhance funded and non-funded beginning farmer and rancher education programs by training and supporting those who themselves train and support beginning farmers and ranchers. Seven Educational Enhancement Projects that are currently underway in 2016 (funded in 2014-2016) are described here. See also [Educational Enhancement Projects: Years 2009-2012](#) for brief descriptions of five completed projects.

### ***SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAMS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO APPLY FOR BFRDP***

This project is working with NIFA to improve guidance and process for applicants to BFRDP, particularly for those who have less experience using grants.gov. This team is reaching out to find people who have applied to BFRDP in the past – successfully or unsuccessfully – or are interested in applying in the future. Answering their questions about the application experience will help them tailor and target applicant assistance. Using this feedback, they will create a variety of resources and tools developed for BFRDP applicants. Additionally, the feedback will be used by NIFA to make changes where possible to the RFA and other application processes. Since NIFA keeps the identity of applicants confidential, you will need to self-identify if you want to help. The leaders of this team are Sarah Lambertson and Kristen Aldrich of New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Jan Perez of the University of California - Santa Cruz, and consultant Allison Goin. [Follow this link](#) to sign up for their e-list, and visit <https://nesfp.org/BFRDP> to access the applicant assistance tools.

### ***EVALUATING BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAMS: IDENTIFYING OUTCOMES, IMPACTS AND FACTORS RELATING TO SUCCESS***

This team is conducting an evaluation of BFRDP grants awarded from 2009 through 2012. The evaluation is using the information in project reports and a survey of project leaders to identify project accomplishments and lessons learned about effective new farmer education and assistance programs. If your organization carried out a BFRDP-funded project during those years, you will hear from the project team. The leaders of the team are Juli Obudzinski of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Jan Perez of the University of California - Santa Cruz, and consultant Ann Williams. You may also hear from other project collaborators, including consultant Alannah Kull.

### ***BUILDING NATIONAL FARMER AND RANCHER APPRENTICESHIP CURRICULA, BEST PRACTICES, AND TRAIN THE TRAINER RESOURCES***

This team will bring together leaders in the field of agricultural apprenticeship facilitation to identify gaps and develop new resources and training materials for nonprofits, CBOs, and commercial farms or ranches looking to improve their management or facilitation of apprenticeship learning programs. The project team of 5 core partners and advisors from 24 organizations led by Tufts University will research existing apprenticeship program design, curricula, and operations to understand best practices and successes/challenges, liaison with the Department of Labor to understand formal Apprenticeship requirements, and develop a comprehensive national Toolkit and website. Outreach will include national webinars and conference presentations, regional training-of-trainer workshops for farm and ranch mentors and an annual national conference. Project director: Jennifer Hashley, Tufts University, Jennifer.Hashley [at] tufts.edu.

### ***FARM BEGINNINGS FROM REGIONAL TO NATIONAL: BEGINNING FARMERS AND VIABLE FARMS INITIATIVE***

The Farm Beginnings Collaborative (<http://farmbeginningscollaborative.org/>) is a national alliance of regional groups who are offering Farm Beginnings programs, a leading farmer-to-farmer training model. This project will strengthen existing Farm Beginnings programs and replicate the Farm Beginnings program from the existing ten organizations and farmer alliances serving 12 states to more than 30 additional organizations and farmer alliances serving all 50 states. Project director: Amy Bacigalupo, Land Stewardship Project, amyb [at] landstewardshipproject.org.

### ***FARMLAND FOR THE NEXT GENERATION: TRAINING THE TRAINERS TO HELP BEGINNERS SECURE LAND AND SUCCEED IN AGRICULTURE***

American Farmland Trust and its partners designed this project to help beginning farmers and ranchers nationwide secure land from retiring farmers and ranchers as well as institutional and non-operating landowners. They are evaluating existing curricula and resources, and then creating a comprehensive curriculum that meets the needs of diverse populations, regions, and agricultural systems. They will test and validate the curriculum by delivering it to 25 experienced agricultural educators, piloting the curriculum with beginning farmers and ranchers, and ultimately extending the training to other trainers. They will sustain the knowledge by laying the foundation for a national network of service providers and making the curriculum and resources widely available. Project Director: Julia Freedgood, American Farmland Trust, jfreedgood [at] farmland.org.

### ***21ST CENTURY MANAGEMENT: ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR BEGINNING WOMEN FARMERS***

This project is coordinating a national learning network to evaluate and enhance the sharing and use of curricula and materials for beginning farm and ranch women of all ages, ethnicity, and agricultural production interests. It focuses on subjects of special importance to beginning farm and ranch women: legal issues; business scale and profitability; farm safety, mechanization and ergonomics; land access, transfer and stewardship; and management. A virtual learning network will provide educators and agricultural technical assistance providers with evidence-based information regarding women's learning preferences, peer-reviewed training materials, evaluation tools, and mentoring from colleagues experienced in working with women farmers and ranchers. Project Director: Mary Peabody, University of Vermont, mary.peabody [at] uvm.edu.

### ***EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND METHODS FOR BEGINNING REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT FARMERS***

In this project, two dozen collaborators that operate refugee and immigrant farming incubator projects are working together to improve their effectiveness in providing education, training and technical assistance to new refugee and immigrant beginning farmers. Support activities include webinars, online resources, team planning meetings, annual conferences, skills development trainings, and a Community of Practice to help everyone function as teams. Project Director: Hugh Joseph, ISED Solutions, hughjoseph [at] comcast.net.

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To view summaries and reports from these and other projects funded by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, click on "Read the Abstract" at <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>