GrowNYC's FARMroots provides aspiring and established farmers with business technical assistance and training designed to ensure the long-term viability of farms and farmland.

**USDA to Reopen FSA Offices for Additional Services During Government Shutdown Overhaul Takes Effect**

The U.S. Secretary of agriculture Sonny Perdue announced on January 22 that all Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will reopen soon to provide additional administrative services to farmers and ranchers during the lapse in federal funding.

Beginning January 24, more than 9,700 FSA employees will keep offices open from 8 am to 4:30 pm weekdays. For the first two full weeks under this operating plan (January 28 through February 1 and February 4 through February 8), FSA offices will be open Mondays through Fridays. In subsequent weeks, offices will be open three days a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, if needed to provide the additional administrative services.

Producers who have business with the agency can contact their FSA service center to make an appointment. To find more information about the type of transactions available, please read this USDA's Press Release.

**Holistic Financial Planning** by Chris Wayne

We’ve been helping train beginning farmers at GrowNYC for 19 years. In all that time, I can’t say that anyone has ever come to us with the expressed intent to make a fortune in sustainable agriculture. That’s not to say that money can’t be made, but something else drives most small-scale farmers to do what they do.

Holistic financial planning, like holistic whole farm planning, starts by identifying the values that draw people to agriculture. It then creates a realistic goal around them, and places that goal at the heart of all decision making. Looking to finance a new piece of equipment, hire additional staff, or add a wholesale enterprise to your farm? The question becomes ‘does this take me closer to my holistic goal, or
further away?'

Seems easy, right? Well there’s lots of little questions nestled under that big one.

To read the whole article please click here.

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Resources

Job Opportunities

Brooklyn Grange is hiring for farm crew, farm manager, sales manager and a greenhouse manager.

Rock Steady Farm & Flowers is hiring a flower marketing & sales lead, field crew team and a veg crew lead.

Land Opportunities

Glynwood is hosting a Landowner Lessee Relations workshop on March 7th from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Successful farmland matches occur when all parties commit to building and maintaining healthy relationships. This workshop will feature speakers who can help to facilitate successful land matches, and who will share their experience of best practices.

Participants will:
- Learn about the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network
- Hear stories of successful matches from a panel of landowners and lessees
- Experience an introduction to mediation, including:
  - What to expect in a mediation session
  - An overview of mediation as a business tool
  - How to work with NY State Ag Mediation Program (NYSAMP)
  - A summary of findings from NYSAMP’s recent SARE-funded research.

If you’d like to attend the event, please register using this link.

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Conference/Grants

Jan 26, Annual Winter Green-Up Grazing Conference, Lathan, NY

Fair from Farm to Retail: Fairness in Treatment of Webinars/Surveys

Jan 29, Growing and Using Medicinal herbs for People and Pollinators, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Calculating Break-Workshops/Courses

Jan 29, Part-time Farmer Tax School, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM, CCE of Washington County, Hudson Falls, NY

Jan 30, Calculating Break-
Farm Workers, Fairness in Pricing. Survey from NOFA and the Agricultural Justice Project.

Hudson Valley Farmers Survey from Bradley Jones-Washington University in St. Louis.

Smart Farming. The Labor Ready Farmer Project is offering grants to provide up to 12 hours of Technical Assistance (TA) consulting services to those who want to make improvements to their farm’s processes in hiring, training, managing or evaluating employee. Application instructions: click here.

Even for your Farm Business, from 12 PM to 1 PM by Julia Shanks

January 31, Alternative Species for Poultry production and Duck Welfare Considerations, from 4:40 PM to 7:30 PM PST

Feb 12, Creating Cash Flow Projections for Farmers, from 12 PM to 1 PM by Julia Shanks

From Feb 21 to August 15, Foundations of Biodynamic Beekeeping, Online Course

Valley Value-Added Grain School, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Coxsackie, NY

Feb 2, Rotational Grazing for Beginners, CCE of Ulster County, Kingston, NY

Produce Safety Alliance Grower GAPs, FSMA and Food Training courses:

Feb 7, Atlantic City, NJ
Feb 19, Center Valley, PA
Feb 26, New Holland, PA

March 4-5, Let’s Get Real About Selling Wholesale. FDR Presidential Library, Hyde Park, NY. Registration limited to NYS farmers.

Support GrowNYC

FARMroots is a program of GrowNYC, a 501(c)3 environmental nonprofit organization.

When you donate to GrowNYC you support FARMroots, neighborhood Greenmarkets, small family farms, community gardens, recycling and hands-on education programs for youth.

Please donate to GrowNYC today.