Cultivating Success: A Comprehensive Beginning Farmer Training and Mentorship Program for Idaho

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Project Audience

• Project access will be located throughout Idaho
• Who: beginning farmers and ranchers and experienced mentor farmers
• Type: small acreage farming such as row crops, small herds, value-added
• Stage of farming: first 10 years matching up with experienced mentor farmers
Partners/Collaborators

• Who are the key people on your team?
  – Colette DePhelps, Rural Roots, project manager for mentor farmers – coordinating seven mentor farmers & other activities
  – Cinda Williams, UI Extension, Co-PI North Idaho
  – Ariel Agenbroad, UI Extension, Co-PI Southern Idaho
  – Other UI Extension faculty throughout Idaho: Co-Pis: Montessa Young, Jennifer Jensen, Lauren Hunter, Rikki Ruiz
Key Approaches

• How are we helping?
  – Development of mentor handbook and online resources: land link, capital networking
  – Interactive live webinars
  – Short courses
  – Mentor networking
  – On-farm classes and mentoring
  – Project evaluation & lessons learned
Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

– Project participants will be involved at various levels. We expect to reach at least 500 Idaho farmers, many women, Native, & Hispanic, or socially disadvantaged (40%) with a broad reach.

– We expect a subset of those farmers to go further into farm education (180), planning (160), skill improvement (100), & new land leases (10) for example

– Each objective has similar target numbers
What will you have to share?

• Farmer-mentor handbook
• Online resources
  – Beginning farmer/rancher decision tree
  – Networking information
  – Webinars
  – Farm planning resources
• Project evaluation methods
What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Innovative programs
- How to achieve inclusivity
- State-of the art in sustainable ag education
- Innovative evaluation methods
- Innovative online delivery or methods
Keep in touch!

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