

Farm Pathways: Integrating Farmer Training with Land Access

A Strategic Partnership providing whole-farm training and innovative land access for beginning farmers in the Southern Appalachians.



The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, a regional land trust, is providing land, infrastructure, equipment and support through their Beginning Farmer Incubator and Farm Production Workshop Series. Their Buy-Protect-Farm Strategy is helping to assure access to affordable farmland for beginning farmers. Appalachian.org



Organic Growers School Organic Growers School is offering Farm Beginnings® Farmer Training – a year-long, holistic farm business planning course providing mentorship & technical assistance – and organic production education through their Apprentice Link and Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) programs. OrganicGrowersSchool.org



WNC FarmLink is linking farmers with farmland owners through its land matching service. They offer one-on-one support and lead workshops helping beginning farmers negotiate equitable leases, prepare logistically and financially for long-term land access. WNCFarmLink.org

FarmPathways.com



Goals

Our goal is clear. We want more farmers on the land and a system in which family farms can flourish. Our role is to facilitate training, land access, networking and mentoring systems through the start-up years to ensure that beginning farmers are prepared to start farming, add/change enterprises, or delay farming to increase the likelihood of success.

Farm Pathways is accomplishing this by providing:

- A structure of comprehensive, holistic, whole-farm educational opportunities for beginning farmers at multiple learning phases
- Affordable Access to Land
- Ongoing Mentorship & Networking
- Increased regional leadership and community support of farmers that results from the collective impact and synergy of the team

Outcomes

1200 beginning farmers will start to farm, enhance their farm plan, improve their farming systems, receive significant training and assistance with production and farm planning, and/or gain access to farmland and support - increasing the success rate for beginning farmers in our region. **In our first year, we have trained 500+ beginning farmers!**

