Farm Works: Supporting beginning, limited resource farmers, including immigrants and refugees, in the Puget Sound Region

Matthew McDermott
Program Manager and Project Co-Director

Project Director Meeting
Sept. 21-24, 2015

BFRDP Grant No.
2015-70017-22867
Project Overview

- Seattle Tilth Farm Works provides farm business training and production support to immigrants, refugees, veterans and people with limited resources in the Puget Sound Region of WA.

- Originated in collaboration with the Somali Bantu community and has since extended to the Kenyan, Hispanic, Ethiopian, Cambodian, Hmong, and Veteran communities.

- Advanced and start-up operations including cut flowers, mixed vegetables, livestock, and wild foraging.
Project Partners

King County

King Conservation District

Washington State University

cares of Washington
Key Approaches

- Organic Farm Education Program
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Food Hub = Secure marketing outlet

Success within Co-Farming Environment
Expected Outcomes

• 30 farmers graduate from OFEP

  • 24 farmers sign leases to implement farm business

• Acquire 60 acres for advanced farmers

• Support 15 farmers in scaling-up their business

• Increase marketing opportunities and food access in region
To Share With You

• Food Hub and Multi-Producer CSA

• Curriculum and Technical Assistance

• Livestock
To Learn From You

- Advanced Farm Hub
- Opportunities to Engage in Financing Opportunities
- Long-term Financial Model for Incubator
http://seattletilth.org/about/seattletilthfarmworks

MatthewMcDermott@seattletilth.org