



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Successfully Navigating the First Ten Years: Education Targeting Farm Developmental Stages to Achieve Profitability and Environmental Sustainability

Garry Stephenson

Small Farms Program

Oregon State University

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
Program Award No 2015-70017-22884



Project Audience

- Who are you aiming to help?
 - Oregon
 - All Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
 - Using organic and sustainable farming methods
 - In first 10 years of operation. Our goal is to get them to their 11th year and beyond.



Partners/Collaborators

- Lead Organization:

Oregon State University Small Farms Program (12 faculty at 8 regional locations in Oregon)

- Non-Profit Partner:

Oregon Tilth. Organic certification and education non-profit



Key Approaches

- Identify the key developmental stages of farmers to target educational programming when the farmer is “ready”
- Develop advanced curricula and farm management tools that address these developmental stages (online and face to face)
- Establish teaching and demonstration farms at OSU’s research farms: basic hands-on plus advanced sustainable farming methods
- Continue 3 current and add 2 new Women’s Farming Networks



What do you have to share?

- *Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management* (a six module online course for BFRs).

<https://pace.oregonstate.edu/catalog/growing-farms-successful-whole-farm-management>

- *Growing Agripreneurs* (a full season farmer incubator)
- Decades of experience working with beginning farmers and ranchers



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Curriculum for advanced BFRs
- Insights into farm profitability/viability



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Keep in touch!

Garry Stephenson

garry.stephenson@oregonstate.edu

smallfarms@oregonstate.edu