

# General Farm Guidelines

## **Schedule for training farm sites:**

Hours open: sunrise to sunset (avoid darkness).

We begin Spring plowing in April or May (depending on weather and soil conditions).

We begin Fall plowing in early October. Plant your late crops in one location so we can plow and plant cover crops in the other locations beginning in early fall. Please talk with the farm-site manager about where you want to plant your late crops. Make sure you:

- Remove all stakes, plastic mulch, and trellises by September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mark perennials and tell the Farm Manager by September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Store or remove all your property by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Till and plant cover crop seed on any areas still planted after fall plowing.

**Keys & Gates:** We provide keys to gates, storage sheds, and rototillers one time only. If you lose a key, you will need to pay \$10 to receive a new key (see **Fees/Payments**). Return keys to staff when you are finished farming for the year. Only NESFP staff may copy keys or change locks. Please keep gates closed and locked at all times (even when working on the farm).

**Storage Shed:** There is a small amount of shed space to store your items. You may use the lockers in each storage shed to keep personal belongings – please use your own lock and remove it at the end of the season. If we need to cut off a lock and clean out your belongings, you will be charged a \$20 fee. Keep all equipment and supplies we supply secure (see **Equipment Use Section**) and use as follows:

- Keep the shed clean and avoid items that bring insect pests, rodents, or mold.
- Keep walkways clean and open; store items neatly.
- Respect NESFP property and the property of your fellow farmers

**Structures and Buildings:** You are not permitted to build any structures on the training farms except for temporary shade tents. You must remove tents at the end of the season. Ask NESFP staff before putting up a shade tent. Also, NESFP must approve in advance the installation of any fences, and removal of trees/limbs.

## **Trash:**

You are responsible for removing all trash from your farm site (including black plastic mulch, stakes, trellis, and other supplies). Everything must be removed by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Keep your fields and all common areas clean and neat at all times. Remove all trash each day.
- Stack your farm supplies neatly and prevent them from blowing into the fields.
- If a dumpster is needed at the farm sites for year-end disposal, farmers will rent and pay for the dumpster.

## **Parking:**

- Park only in approved spaces on the farm.
- Please do not block NESFP project vehicles or tractor / cooler / shed access.
- To drive on the farm you must have a driver's license and the speed limit is 5 MPH.

**Farm Help and Visitors:** Give NESFP the names and address / phone for all persons working on your fields. You must be on your farm when visitors or helpers are there. Be sure your visitors understand the farm guidelines.

**Sublet:** You are not allowed to sublet (rent out) your plot.

**Access to your plot:** NESFP is allowed to enter your field when necessary and without notice. We also host field visits, volunteer events, and educational tours at training farms. NESFP will notify you in advance of these events and encourage your involvement.

**General:**

- Supervise children and visitors at all times.
- No open fires. Cook meals in picnic/shade areas.
- Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted.
- Violent or aggressive actions (physical or verbal) to others are not allowed.
- No pets.
- Please respect neighbors. Stay off their land and prevent loud noises and music.