



11th Annual National FIELD School

October 24-26, 2022
Seattle, WA



AT A GLANCE

MONDAY OCT.24

7:00 - 8:00 am

Registration at Best Western Plus, Pioneer Square Hotel

8:00 am

Charter Bus Departs from Best Western Plus Hotel for Field Trips

8:00 am - 5:45 pm

Incubator Field Trips:

Viva Farms - Incubator
15366 Ovenell Rd
Burlington, WA 98233

Viva Farms - Ag Park
State Route 20 16470
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Apprenticeship Field Trip:

Organic Farm School
6390 Maxwellton Rd
Clinton, WA 98236

5:45 pm

Bus returns to Best Western Plus Pioneer Square Hotel

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Networking Reception:

Alstadt (.1 mile from hotel)
209 1st Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104

Appetizers and one complimentary drink ticket provided

TUESDAY OCT.25

8:00 - 8:30 am

Registration at El Centro de la Raza / Centilia Cultural Center

8:30 am

Welcoming Remarks

9:00 - 10:30 am

Session I (Plenary: Equity in Farm Bill Programs)

10:30 -10:45 am

Break

10:45 - 12:15 pm

Session II (concurrent workshops)

12:15 - 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Session III (concurrent workshops)

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Breakout Groups - Incubator and Apprenticeship Programs

5:00 pm

Report Back to Main Room and Determine Open Space Topics for Wednesday

Dinner on Own (see list of recommended restaurants)

WEDNESDAY OCT.26

8:00 - 9:00 am

Registration at El Centro de la Raza / Centilia Cultural Center

9:00 - 10:30 am

Session IV (concurrent workshops)

10:30 -10:45 am

Break

10:45 - 12:15 pm

Session V (concurrent workshops)

12:15 - 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Session VI (concurrent workshops)

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Open Space Sessions

4:30 pm

Closing Circle - End of Conference



FARM TOURS I

Monday Oct. 24th

8:00 am-12:00 pm

VIVA FARMS - Incubator Program

Hosts - Michael Frazier and Rob Smith

Viva Farms is a non-profit (501c-3 and charitable organization), Farm Business Incubator and Training Program established in 2009. They operate 119 acres across two locations in Skagit County, and one in King County, Washington. They lower the barriers for beginning farmers, and create the opportunity for success. Viva Farms has educated over 1,000 farmers (150+ Spanish speakers) in holistic organic farming practices, as well as provide access to land, infrastructure, equipment, marketing and capital. In 2022, they have 30 farm businesses participating in their incubator program, and about 60 principal operators.

Skagit County Incubator - Located in the Skagit Valley of western Washington, Viva Farms Incubator is Viva Farms' original location. Their 33-acre home site has about 25 acres of cultivatable certified organic farmland, as well as a GAP-certified wash/pack facility.

Skagit County Ag Park - Also located in the Skagit Valley of western WA, the Agricultural Park is their second location in Skagit County. This 45-acre certified organic farm provides incubator farmers who are or will be on the verge of becoming independent commercial farmers more acreage, longer leases and the ability to scale up production.



VIVA FARMS

Michael Frazier has over 20 years' experience leading business development in non-profit, for profit and public arenas. Previously, as the Director of Helping Hands Food Bank, Michael worked supporting socially disadvantaged populations in the Skagit Valley, including Latino farm-workers by purchasing fresh produce, and distributing food assistance on a weekly basis. As Executive Director of Viva Farms, he brings his knowledge and experience to help bridge the gap between socially disadvantaged food producers and economic development and local food security, by working directly with community partners to grow successful farm businesses.

Rob Smith has over 15 years working at the intersection of sustainable agriculture, farm business management and social advocacy. Prior to Viva Farms, he worked as a manager of Happy Boy Farms, a 400-acre, certified organic farm in California's central coast. As Viva Farms' Operations and Incubator Director, Rob oversees design and implementation of Viva Farms' programs, including bilingual curriculum development and training programs, and works with directly with farmers and staff to ensure incubating farm business success and the fulfillment of Viva Farms' mission. He is also a certified Lead Trainer with the Produce Safety Alliance and has instructed courses around within the region and internationally. Rob holds a BA in Politics and Latin American studies from UC Santa Cruz.

FARM TOURS II

Monday Oct. 24 12:00-
5:45 pm

Organic Farm School - Apprenticeship Program

Host - Judy Feldman

As a learning center, the Organic Farm School trains new farmers to develop and manage small farms focused on ecological, economic, and social regeneration—simultaneously offering opportunities for the community and others to learn about their role in strengthening local/regional food systems.

Through its mission, the Organic Farm School is committed to training new farmers and strengthening the food system for an inclusive community where all people - of every color, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, background and economic circumstance - are supported and celebrated.

The Organic Farm School works to prepare participants for success, instilling a holistic perspective on what it takes to successfully start and manage a small-scale (5-20 acre) commercial organic farm from the field tasks of tillage, planting, and harvesting to the office tasks of crop planning, marketing and financial management. While not every graduate will choose to work at this scale, understanding this spectrum of tasks that farmers engage in helps their students get a jumpstart on both clarifying and realizing their farming dreams. Currently, they offer two ways to access training: the Core Program, which is a full year course that includes classroom and field training as well as business planning session; or a 4-week experience that can be taken once or repeated up to 5 times during the summer season. The latter is focused on field training.



Judy Feldman comes from a long line of farmers and tradespeople, but she is neither. Her role at the Farm is to hold the BIG PICTURE of what they are trying to do - which is summed up in the Organic Farm School mission statement. Her day-to-day tasks vary, but she likes to say that her job primarily consists of talking- with trainees, with staff, and with the community, connecting them while helping to tell their stories. When she is not doing all of this, she is thinking about all of this. But she also loves to taking photographs, using those photographs to make notebooks, spending time with her very patient partner, John, and trying to find time to visit her family in Texas.



Metro Directions + Conference Map

Public Transit to: **El Centro de la Raza, Centilia Cultural Center**, 2524 16th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

From the Best Western/Pioneer Square, walk east on Yesler Way toward Post Avenue, pass the Caffe D'arte on right, turn slight left onto Jefferson Street to the Pioneer Square light rail station (5 min, 0.2 miles). Take the 1-line south toward Angle Lake. Travel 4 stops (9 min) and exit at Beacon Hill Station. Walk east on S. Lander Street and the Centilia Cultural Center will be on the corner of S. Lander and 17th Avenue.



Parking Options: Limited street parking is available in metered spaces (up to 2 hrs) which are monitored. Suggest using App - Spot Hero or Parkopedia if driving. May have to walk after finding a nearby parking garage/lot.

TUESDAY + WEDNESDAY OCT.25/26

Workshop Locations

Welcoming Remarks, Policy Plenary, Lunch, Open Space, and Closing Circle:

Centilia Cultural Center (full room - A + B)

Workshop Sessions

Incubator Track:

Centilia Cultural Center - A

Apprentice Track:

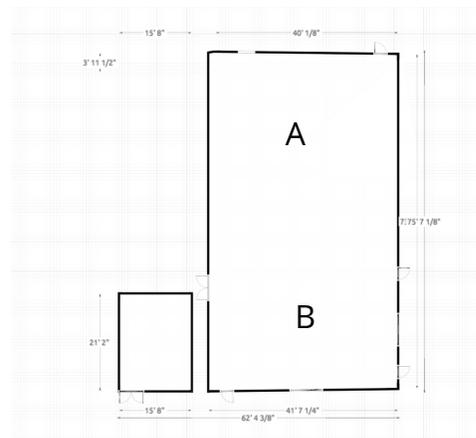
Centilia Cultural Center - B

Resource Showcase:

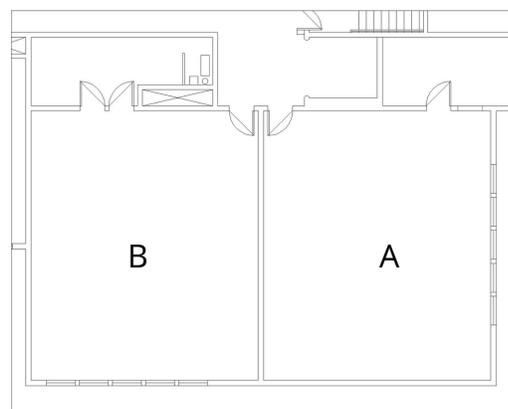
Historic Building - Room A

World Café:

Historic Building - Room B



Centilia Cultural Center - Room A and B



Historic Building - Room A and B

Billy Hackett is a Policy Specialist with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, where his portfolio includes key crop insurance, credit, and competition issues. He unearthed a passion for equitable food systems in college organizing in solidarity with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Billy holds B.A.s in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Florida.

Rob Smith has over 15 years working at the intersection of sustainable agriculture, farm business management and social advocacy. Prior to Viva Farms, he worked as a manager of Happy Boy Farms, a 400-acre, certified organic farm in California's central coast. As Viva Farms' Operations and Incubator Director, Rob oversees design and implementation of Viva Farms' programs, including bilingual curriculum development and training programs, and works with directly with farmers and staff to ensure incubating farm business success and the fulfillment of Viva Farms' mission. He is also a certified Lead Trainer with the Produce Safety Alliance and has instructed courses around within the region and internationally. Rob holds a BA in Politics and Latin American studies from UC Santa Cruz.

Katherine Myrvold's background is in multilingual education, sustainable agriculture, and non-profit program coordination. She has over a decade of experience teaching English & Spanish in public schools and as a private tutor in California & Spain. She became interested in sustainable agriculture in 2011, as a home gardener and then eventually as a full-time farmer. In her role as Sales & Education Manager at Viva Farms, Katherine works with student farmers in the Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture. She also works with wholesale produce sales. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Gender Studies and minors in Spanish and French.

Julie Sullivan was born and raised in California. After working as an actor, arts administrator, and starting a private progressive preschool in Seattle, she earned her Master's in Environmental Education and subsequently taught interdisciplinary environmental education at both undergraduate and graduate levels for the Audubon Expedition Institute at Lesley University. After over a decade living outside teaching for the Expedition, Julie met and joined George Whitten in 2001 on his certified organic, grass-finished cattle ranch. Julie and George and the founding mentors of the Quivira Coalition New Agrarian Program and have been mentors since its inception. Julie also serves as mentor support, and works with the national Agricultural Apprenticeship Learning Network, working to expand opportunities for young agrarians.

SESSION I: PLENARY

Tuesday Oct. 25 9:00-10:30 am

Advancing Equity in the Farm Bill

Billy Hackett (NSAC - National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition)

The 2023 Farm Bill is our opportunity to remove barriers that beginning and BIPOC farmers face to access land, credit, and other resources to farm. In this session, we will brainstorm solutions and learn how to engage with this major piece of legislation.

SESSION II

Tuesday Oct. 25 10:45-12:15 am

Incubator Track - Evolving educational models as incubating farm business' needs shift -- The Development of Viva Farms' Training Programs

Rob Smith and Katherine Myrvold (Viva Farms)

How do farmers' needs for various types of ongoing training evolve over time and as they transition from beginning to independent farmers? Explore Viva Farms' experience in evolving our own bilingual (Spanish-English) training programs to meet the changing needs of our diverse program participants.

Apprentice Track - How Holistic Goals Work in Tandem with Experiential Learning and Skills Matrices to Create Relevant, Engaged Learning

Julie Sullivan (Quivira Coalition New Agrarian Program (NAP)) - REMOTE PRESENTER

Creating a Holistic Goal supports apprentice on-site learning, duties and skills acquisition by identifying how this learning is relevant and meaningful for their long-term professional goals. This workshop will walk participants through the Holistic Goal process NAP designed for beginning agrarians, covering quality of life and the behaviors, actions and systems apprentices need to develop to achieve that life and agrarian goal.



SESSION II CON'T

Tuesday Oct. 25 10:45 am-12:15 pm

Resource Showcase - Cultivating the Next Generation of Organic Farmers

Nathan Harkleroad (Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA))

This project will share ALBA's 20-year+ history of helping farmworkers become independent organic farmers. A pop-up photographic art show will be used as a way for viewers to understand the components and values that drive ALBA's work toward a more equitable and sustainable food system. This will be of particular interest to other organizations operating (or hoping to operate) farm incubators that serve marginalized populations, as well as other food system advocates.

World Café - Land Justice and Equity

Adasha Turner (Black Seed Agroecological Village and Farm and Modest Family Solutions); Rhamis Kent (ANTS Regenerate)

Agrarian Commons aims to support basic human needs, and the building of resilient communities, while also promoting equity and justice through the land. Join in a thoughtful conversation on inequity in land access and the production of local food.



Nathan Harkleroad, with nearly 20 years of experience in organic agriculture and non-profit management, (Program Director), runs ALBA's Farmer Education Course, supports farmers in their early years in the Organic Farm Incubator, and manages a number of educational and research projects. He holds an M.S. in Agriculture, emphasis Crop Science, from the CA Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, CA. This art show was supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Adasha Turner is Co-Founder of Black Seed Agroecological Village and Farm, a worker cooperative created in 2022 by Modest Family Solutions, a local nonprofit dedicated to building food sovereignty, hyper local supply chain with zero waste practices that include afro-centric youth education, after it was awarded a 99-year lease on 10 acres of land held by the national nonprofit Agrarian Trust. Black Seed aspires to use the newly acquired land as a space where Black farmers and members of the Black community can learn, heal, and reconnect with nature. At the same time, Black Seed will benefit the Whidbey Island community at large, through providing it with access to healthy, affordable food.

Rhamis Khent is the founder and director of ANTS Regenerate and is a consultant with formal training in mechanical engineering and permaculture-based regenerative whole systems design, serving as a registered certified Permaculture Design instructor with the Permaculture Research Institute (PRI) of Australia. Mr. Rhamis has taught Permaculture Design (formal Certification and short intensive courses) and consulted on projects internationally and in the US. Most recently, he co-founded and launched the Program for Ethical & Appropriate Regenerative Livelihoods (PEARL) in partnership with Dr. Adi Setia and Mrs. Atika Akram.

Elicia Whittlesey began her farming journey at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in California over 10 years ago and has been at the Old Fort since 2015. Elicia holds a bachelor's in Environmental Analysis from Pomona College and a Master's in Geography from the University of Minnesota. She lives in Mancos with her daughter and husband, where they let dandelions take over their yard alongside a few apple trees, herbs and flowers.

Denzel Mitchell, Jr. has served as an educator, organizer, cook, librarian and farmer. He and other urban agriculturalists worked together to organize and found the Farm Alliance of Baltimore. In November 2012, he completed Future Harvest-CASA's Beginning Farmer Training Program and then with the help of a chef and food historian, he brought a nearly-forgotten heirloom, Baltimore's Fish Pepper, back to the Chesapeake region's culinary palette. He, his family, and a cadre of supporters and volunteers operated Five Seeds Farm from 2008 until 2016. From 2012 to spring of 2017, Denzel mentored several new farmers, organized farmers' markets, advised others in starting small farms, community gardens, food co-ops and food businesses. He taught and mentored young people at several Baltimore City public schools and after-school programs. He was the Brownfields Coordinator for Baltimore City's Office of Planning. He has served on the production committee of several urban farms including Real Food Farm, Whitelock Community Farm, Boone Street Farm and Great Kids Farm. He has served on the board of directors for the Friends of Great Kids Farm, Belair-Edison Neighborhood, Inc. and now Acres4Change. He currently serves as co-Executive Director of the Farm Alliance.

Myeasha Taylor is the Production and Education Manager of the Farm Alliance of Baltimore's Black Butterfly Urban Farmer Academy leading the 2022 trainees and managing the 6.7 acre teaching farm and soon to be incubator farm at West Bay. Since 2011, she has managed three urban farms providing intensive training in sustainable agriculture for budding farmers, high school and college students. She is a longstanding member of Future Harvest CASA and the Black Dirt Farm Collective.



SESSION III

Tuesday Oct. 24

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Incubator Track - Cooperative Learning Models

Elicia Whittlesey (Ft. Lewis College)

We will discuss different practices that support cooperative learning using examples from experience in the fields. How can a farmer support both independence (from the farmer/supervisor) and cooperation (especially with peers), and still make sure everyone pulls out only the actual weeds? We also address the cooperative nature of our evolving response to the history of the land we farm, as a federal Indian boarding school.

Apprentice Track - Building the Pipeline: The Farm Alliance of Baltimore's Black Butterfly Urban Farmer Academy

Denzel Mitchell, Jr. and Myeasha Taylor (Farm Alliance of Baltimore)

In 2021, the Farm Alliance of Baltimore launched a new training program, The Black Butterfly Urban Farm Academy. In this session, the Farm Alliance will share how this immersive training program was built from the ground up, and how it is working to ensure that urban farming is a viable industry where farmers from Baltimore's majority-African American communities have authentic opportunities to acquire jobs and establish their own enterprises.





SESSION III CON'T

Tuesday Oct.24
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Resource Showcase - Development of Visual Learning Resources for Speakers of Other Languages

Katie Painter (ISED Solutions) and Kristin Selby (New Roots for Refugees, Kansas City)

ISED Solutions has partnered with 5 refugee incubator farms around the country to produce a library of visual materials for use in farmer training programs. Review these materials and learn about the principles we used to design them, including Plain Language and visual communication. Your feedback will guide our future content.

World Café - Supporting Farmers with a Diversity of Learning Styles and Challenges in Hands-On and Classroom Learning

Heather Friedrich, Jonathan McArthur, Brooke Anderson, Joe Hannan, and Cailin Irby (Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF))

This session will include a conversation of experiences, observations and insights working with students with differing abilities and needs. Join this session to strategize on how to support and train neurodivergent learners.



Katie Painter is a Project Coordinator at ISED Solutions (Institute for Social and Economic Development), where she manages a nationwide curriculum development and training-of-trainer project for incubator farms. Prior to this work, Katie managed an incubator farm in Boise, Idaho, and a farmer education program on the Duck Valley Reservation. She also consults with the American Farmland Trust, providing training for trainers working on land access issues, and ensuring that AFT materials are accessible to all farmers. She holds an MS degree from the University of Florida in Interdisciplinary Ecology, and a BA in Biology and Spanish from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Kristin Selby is the Program Manager of New Roots for Refugees. She has been working in refugee agricultural education since 2019, first as a program specialist developing ELL curriculum for farmers, coordinating farmers' market placements, and training and overseeing volunteers. More recently, she has taken on the role of program management. Kristin is a TESOL certified instructor, holding a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Kansas State University. She has been teaching, tutoring, and developing curriculum for English language learners for the past seven years.

Heather Friedrich is the Assistant Director at the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF). She has nearly 20 years of experience working to support the local food system of Northwest Arkansas (NWA) from organic production research to facilitating an alliance of NWA farmers market managers and more recently, in the development of CAFF. CAFF was created to train the next generation of farmers through experiential learning, connecting to resources and strengthening the farm community network. Heather oversees CAFF's programs, including an on-farm apprenticeship program and a Farm School.

Other presenters for this World Café Session are listed on the next page.

Jonathan McArthur is a Natural State native who graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture and a minor in Sustainability. He started his farming career by managing a small but intensive fruit and vegetable farm for the Samaritan Community Center, a nonprofit feeding organization. Jonathan is a vocal farming advocate and served as president of the Arkansas Young Farmers Coalition. In 2018 he helped start Arkansas's first agrihood and then went on to teach and develop an applied farming class for Brightwater, a center for food study. Currently, he is the farm manager and an educator for the Center for Arkansas Farms and Foods, where he helps train the next generation of farmers.

Brooke Anderson has a background in accounting, agricultural economics, and international rural development. She now supports her local food system by combining these passions to teach business planning to the next generation of specialty crop farmers in the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF) Apprenticeship and Farm School Programs. Part of her role at CAFF includes organizing networking events to connect beginning farmers with local business resources and to create a supportive farm community network. On the weekends, you'll find her reading in the park or running on the beautiful Ozark trails.

Joe Hannan is the horticulture classroom instructor at CAFF Farm School. His background is in delivering science-based curriculum and technical assistance to fruit and vegetable farmers. His goal is to increase the quantity and quality of produce grown in northwest Arkansas.

Cailin Irby is a recent graduate from the University of Arkansas, earning a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture with a minor in sustainability. She spent a year after graduation working with commercial farms in Northwest Arkansas. Cailin has since worked at the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF), where she assists in the Farm School with instruction and field management as well as social media for CAFF.

SESSION III CON'T

Tuesday Oct.24
1:30 - 3:00 pm

World Café - Supporting Farmers with a Diversity of Learning Styles and Challenges in Hands-On and Classroom Learning

Heather Friedrich, Jonathan McArthur, Brooke Anderson, Joe Hannan, and Cailin Irby (Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF))

This session will include a conversation of experiences, observations and insights working with students with differing abilities and needs. Join this session to strategize on how to support and train neurodivergent learners.

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Tuesday Oct. 24
3:30 - 5:00 PM

CHOOSE YOUR TRACK!

Beginning / Advanced Incubators

Beginning / Advanced Apprenticeship

Join your peers to discuss trends, opportunities, challenges, and ideas for how the FIELD Network can support your program/organization.





SESSION IV

Wednesday Oct. 26

9:00 - 10:30 am

Incubator Track - Road to Success: Incubator Farms Education and Program Pathway - best practices for English Language Learners (ELL)

San Miller (Lutheran Services in Iowa - Global Greens) and Kristin Selby (New Roots for Refugees, Kansas City)

Coming from well-established incubator farms in the Midwest, San and Kristen will share their respective program pathways, farm curriculum and ELL best practices, and types of assistance given to farmers that help make them successful.

Apprentice Track - Developing Allied Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Programs to Build the Farmer-Training Pipeline

Dan Dalton and Lisa Miskelly (Pasa Sustainable Agriculture)

As management-level farmer training programs have developed, the need for initial training experiences in agriculture has come into sharp focus. Join Pasa Sustainable Agriculture staff to hear about the development of their Diversified Vegetable Pre-apprenticeship Program (DVP), an allied, registered pre-apprenticeship, providing initial agricultural experiences, connected to their management-level training program, the Diversified Vegetable Apprenticeship (DVA).



San Miller (he/they) is LSI's Farm Education Specialist, who has been working with Global Greens for the last two years. They focus on making farm education accessible by creating plain language and visually based farming education content, improving Technical assistance delivery, as well as helps to lead LSI's Midwest SARE Incubator Community of Practice. San has been working in Education for 7 years and is studying to get their Master's degree in democratic and participatory education methods.

Kristin Selby is the Program Manager of New Roots for Refugees. She has been working in refugee agricultural education since 2019, first as a program specialist developing ELL curriculum for farmers, coordinating farmers' market placements, and training and overseeing volunteers. More recently, she has taken on the role of program management. Kristin is a TESOL certified instructor, holding a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Kansas State University. She has been teaching, tutoring, and developing curriculum for English language learners for the past seven years.

Dan Dalton manages Pasa's educational programming, member outreach, and research coordination in western Pennsylvania. He also leads Pasa's Diversified Vegetable Apprenticeship program. He has worked as an agronomist, advising farmers on how to manage their soils more sustainably, as a vegetable grower, and as an educator teaching agroecology.

Lisa Miskelly coordinates Pasa's Diversified Vegetable Pre-Apprenticeship program. Prior to joining the Pasa team, Lisa managed a college farm, where she worked to balance vegetable production with educating the next generation of farmers and food system leaders. She has more than a decade of experience in apprenticing with and managing vegetable farms of various scales, using human, tractor, and draft power. Lisa and her partner co-manage Good Work Farm in the Lehigh Valley, a demonstration site for Pasa's alley cropping project.



SESSION IV, CON'T

Wednesday Oct. 2
9:00 -10:30 am

Resource Showcase - Urban Agriculture - Supporting New Urban Farmers and Feeding Communities

Sri Sethuratnum and Heather Lyon (Center for Land Based Learning (CLBL))

This session will discuss and dissect how urban farms function as incubator spaces and can provide food to communities in need (seniors, low income, BIPOC). Learn about CLBL's mobile farmers' market and food access programs.

World Café - Working with Native American Farmers - A History of Fort Lewis College

Beth LaShell (Fort Lewis College)

Agriculture was used as a method of assimilation during the Boarding School era. Our farmer training program is increasing Native American participation and incorporating indigenous crops and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into our educational program. Fort Lewis has offered free tuition to Native Americans since 1911 when the Boarding School closed and land was transferred to the State of Colorado. The College moved from Hesperus location to Durango in 1956 and the current student body is 45% Native American from 175 tribes.



Dr. Sri Sethuratnam has worked with beginning farmers in the US and Canada since 2008 and managed incubator farm programs in both countries. He is currently the Director of the CA Farm Academy which is a beginning farmer support program at the Center for Land-Based Learning. Since 2016, he has managed an urban incubator farm program that provides a pathway for aspiring farmers to establish urban farms.

Heather Lyon manages the mobile farmers market in West Sacramento that the Center for Land-Based Learning piloted in 2021. She worked on a 400-acre organic farm in Northern California before joining the Center. The Mobile market connects urban farms with low-income and senior communities in West Sacramento.

Beth LaShell is the Director of the Old Fort at Hesperus. She oversees the day-to-day operations on the 6,318 acre former military fort, federal Indian boarding school, high school, and 2-year college. In 2022, three Farmers-in-Training (FITs) and two Field Assistants in our Farmer Training program are Native American and are guiding us to use farming as a reconciliation tool.

Melissa Hemken leads Central Wyoming College's Local Food Economy Resiliency project, which develops markets for farmers and ranchers while simultaneously increasing access to local food produce and products within our communities. Her broad knowledge of food and agriculture roots in her family's Iowa crop and livestock farm, swings into the small-scale farms of New England, travels to ranches across the nation for magazine assignments, and lands on her Melissahof farm enterprise near Lander, WY where she focuses on a chick hatchery, pastured poultry and gourmet garlic. A lifelong learner, Melissa is currently a Sustainable Food System graduate certificate student at Tufts University's Friedman School.

Douglas Nelson manages the CWC student farm and coordinates his hometown farmers market on the weekend. It is a pride and passion of his to empower others to grow and share their plenty with others, improving local economies while doing so. Douglas' interest in agriculture led him to becoming a Certified Permaculture Designer and consultant through Geoff Lawton's permaculture program. This launched him into urban farming where he helped triple the size and flow of his local farmers market and encouraged others to take up a local entrepreneurial calling. He has completed CWC's Beginner Farmer certificate and is a current incubator farmer at the CWC Farm.

Ethan Page is originally from upstate NY and grew into agriculture at a young age by raising sheep through 4-H. From there, he studied animal and environmental science in college and holds a Masters on how CSAs can benefit small farmers. Ethan has worked on small farms, in backyard gardening and education, and controlled environment hydroponics. He currently manages the CWC Beginning Farmer Training Program and leads the AAS in Regenerative Small-scale Farming.

Lauren Kaplan (she/her) is the Farmer Training Program Manager at Glynwood. Prior to joining Glynwood, Lauren received a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture from UCSC's Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems and spent seven years farming at diversified vegetable farms in California and New York.

SESSION V

Wednesday Oct. 26
10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Incubator Track - Grow Your Own: Food, Jobs and Community

Melissa Hemken, Ethan Page, and Douglas Nelson (Central Wyoming College)

Wyoming conjures scenes of cowboys, cattle and open range. The people that live in its semi-arid, high-altitude lands, all 581,348 of us, need affordable, nutritious food. Central Wyoming College boosts the local food economy resiliency through its beginning farmer training program, farm incubator, and aggregation/distribution local food hub partnership. Come learn how we operate.

Apprentice Track - Pilots and Pivots: Year One of the Hudson Valley Apprenticeship

Lauren Kaplan (Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming)

In March of 2022, Glynwood launched a regional decentralized apprenticeship program. In its pilot year, the Hudson Valley Apprenticeship engaged apprentices and mentors at five vegetable farms across four counties, provided in-field learning and mentoring, and delivered 60 hours of classroom-based education. (We also got really good at pivoting.) Join us for an introduction to the Hudson Valley Apprenticeship, including the importance of laying the groundwork; challenges we encountered; and the learnings we're taking into year two. Attendees will be invited to share their own experiences, questions, best practices and considerations in launching a regional apprenticeship program.



Elizabeth Hayes is the director of Cloud Mountain Farm Center in Everson, WA, and currently oversees their incubator farm program.

Savannah Flynn is the owner-operator of Flynn Farms; she has farmed at Cloud Mountain's incubator property since 2020. Her business model has evolved substantially since joining the incubator, giving her unique perspective on what "success" looks like in a new farm business.

Leah Jurman is responsible for managing technical assistance programs for New Entry and serves as the primary coordinator for farmers enrolled in the project. She teaches field-based workshops and assists in production, business development, marketing, and transitioning farmers onto independent sites. She manages incubator training farms and related farm equipment and site preparation for dozens of new growers each season on 15 acres of land in Beverly, MA. Prior to joining New Entry, Leah served as an Agriculture Team Coordinator for The Trustees and she spent five years as the Assistant Farm Manager at Appleton Farms. Leah has also served as Assistant Grower on multiple eastern Massachusetts farms. Leah holds a BS in Biology and Global Studies from Emmanuel College.

Ben Zoba is the Beginning Farmer Educator at the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, and he works to help new and prospective farmers get the training and resources they need to succeed as growers. His responsibilities include developing curricula and teaching farming courses as well as exploring methods for building soil-health while growing crops.



SESSION V CON'T

Wednesday Oct. 26

10:45 am-12:15 pm

Resource Showcase - Farmer Success Metrics - Farmer and Program Perspectives

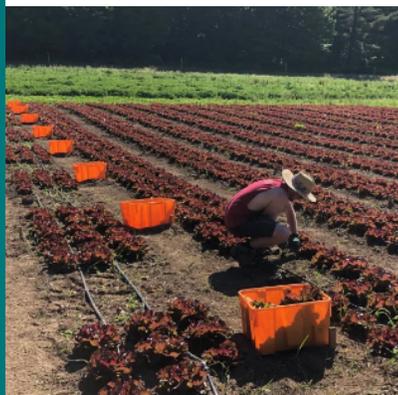
Elizabeth Hayes (Cloud Mountain Farm Center) , Savannah Flynn (Flynn Farms), Leah Jurman (New Entry Sustainable Farming Project), and Select Viva Farm Farmers

This discussion-based workshop will share collective experiences to address the following questions: How do programs define and quantify farmer success? What best practices exist for serving both participant's farm business development and overall program development?

World Café - Climate Resilience: Strategies for growing food in a changing world

Ben Zoba (New Entry Sustainable Farming Project)

This break-out discussion is a space to discuss threats, opportunities, and strategies related to farming in extreme weather. Share and hear ideas about mitigating risks associated with changing climates and maybe explore a common love of soil microbes and mycorrhizal fungi.



SESSION VI

Wednesday Oct. 26th

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Incubator Track - Market Development as a Key Support for Incubating Farmers - Viva Farms' Marketing Programs

Katherine Myrvold (Viva Farms)

Participants will learn about the evolution of Viva Farms' marketing programs over the past 10 years in response to the changing needs of incubating farmers as their businesses scale. We will explore the logistical nuts and bolts of efficiently running multi-farm marketing programs supporting 35 farm businesses, including the development of tools to increase communications efficiency and unify quality and purchasing standards. We will look at how we serve both brand new farmers and more experienced mid-level farmers, the balance - and occasional tensions between Viva Farms' sales and independent incubating farmers' sales through Viva Farms' low-income (Snap-Ed) CSA and wholesale distribution programs.

Apprentice Track - What an Apprentice Wants: understanding and accommodating today's diverse expectations and needs among apprentices and mentors.

Gayle Woodsum (Action Resources International)

Hand in hand with working out better food production processes for greater yield, followed by more creative distribution practices, we need to understand more clearly what young/beginning/potential/challenged farmers and ranchers are up against in their daily and personal lives in order to help them succeed. From a social equity perspective, this workshop (both presenter and participants alike) will delve into the myriad and new challenges facing today's apprentices, instructors, supervisors, and mentors, and the often extremely unique responses needed to help everyone move forward (including recognizing when it's time to let go).

Resource Showcase - Food Safety and Entry into Food-Safe Certified Markets

Elise Watt (New Roots Salt Lake City)

This session will review the steps involved and resources needed to build a food-safe farming operation that caters to farm incubator and ESL cultivators. We will review the benefits and barriers to entering food-safe certified markets and how to approach Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification.

Katherine Myrvold's background is in multilingual education, sustainable agriculture, and non-profit program coordination. She has over a decade of experience teaching English & Spanish in public schools and as a private tutor in California & Spain. She became interested in sustainable agriculture in 2011, as a home gardener and then eventually as a full-time farmer. In her role as Sales & Education Manager at Viva Farms, Katherine works with student farmers in the Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture. She also works with wholesale produce sales. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Gender Studies and minors in Spanish and French.

Gayle Woodsum is founder and CEO of Action Resources International, a Wyoming-based, grassroots organization grounded in the philosophy that lived experience as expertise is essential for achieving positive, effective social change. In 2009, Gayle launched Feeding Laramie Valley to aid in the development of accessible, equitable, and sustainable food sovereignty.

Elise Watt is the Farmer Empowerment Coordinator for the Salt Lake City chapter of New Roots, a community garden and farm incubator program that is part of the International Rescue Committee. She oversees the day-to-day operation of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that serves more than 180 members in the Salt Lake area, and provides production and business development education to New Roots program participants. Elise has a Produce Safety Alliance certification and holds a Bachelors degree in Anthropology and Global Studies from the University of Virginia.



SESSION VI CON'T

Wednesday Oct. 26th
1:00-2:30 pm

World Café - Financial Benchmarks and Recordkeeping Practices for Beginning Farmers

John Hendrickson (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Learning to run a farm business must include financial management. Unfortunately, many beginning farmers lack a passion and proclivity for record keeping and financial planning/evaluation. Furthermore, there is a distinct lack of financial benchmarks for small scale, organic and sustainable specialty crop farms that offer targets or guideposts for beginning growers. Join this round table for a conversation about record keeping tools and systems and a brainstorming session on metrics and benchmarks that would help beginning farmers navigate and evaluate the development of their enterprise and put them on a path toward a financially viable farming livelihood.

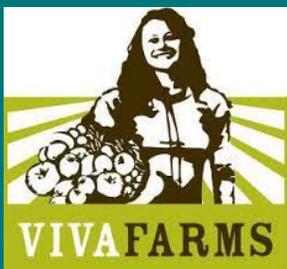


John Hendrickson coordinates research and training programs in organic and sustainable specialty crop production, marketing, and profitability at the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, UW-Madison. His work focuses on the economics of small-scale vegetable farming. He manages the Veggie Compass program—a spreadsheet tool to help growers measure profitability by crop and market—and has coordinated beginning farmer training programs for Market Growers, Apple Growers, and Cut Flower Growers. In the past, John operated his own certified organic vegetable farm.

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OPEN SPACE SESSIONS

Wednesday Oct. 26th
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Open Space is offered for participants to create and manage their own agenda of parallel sessions around a specific theme. Propose a topic to address a specific question or theme relevant to your program! After being introduced to the principles and practices of open space, participants are invited to build the event schedule, just-in-time. Individuals propose sessions they'd like to lead, or sessions they'd like to see someone else step up and lead. We will quickly compose sessions around topics people feel passionate about pursuing. Open Space sessions operate under a small set of guiding principles. These principles are simple, yet provide just enough structure for spontaneous discussions:

- Whoever comes are the right people.
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
- Whenever it starts is the right time.
- Whenever it's over, it's over.
- Wherever it happens is the right place.

Additionally, there is one law—**The Law of Personal Mobility**: If you find yourself where you can't learn or contribute, move yourself to a place where you can!

Notes & Topics of Interest:

Rain. Coffee. Repeat.



Our local lunch vendors (Tues / Wed):



A few locals – Kathryn L. Hale, Qualitative UX Researcher at Meta; Sara Breslow, Independent Researcher and Consultant; and Sara Gonzalez, Associate Professor at the University of Washington and the Curator of Archaeology at the Burke Museum – offered to share their ethnographic and epicurean expertise. Here's what they had to offer:

Of local fame (miles from Pioneer Square hotel):

- Top Pot Doughnuts (1.3 miles)
- Cornelly Pizza (2.1)
- Ivar's Fish Bar (5.2)
- The Walrus and the Carpenter (5.3)
- The Whale Wins (5.4)

And Many More and some within Walking Distance (miles from hotel):

- Taylor's Shellfish Oyster Bar (great seafood and oysters) (0.4 miles)
- Fuji Bakery (Japanese-style bakery,): 2nd fav next to Sea Wolf Bakers for baked goods! (0.7)
- Sushi Kashiba (famed sushi chef Shiro's spot in Pike Place Market): fabulous, also fabulously pricey! (0.7)
- Pike Place Market: lots of options here! Matt's in the Market is a great upscale place; Ellen's Yogurt, The Crumpet Shop (easy to grab and go) (0.8 miles)
- Plum Bistro (vegan) (1.4)
- Mamnoon (Middle Eastern): great for lunch and dinner (1.5)
- Nue (tapas & brunch) (1.9)
- Rione (Roman): everything is good. Seriously! (2.1)
- Bar Vacilando (Spanish-influenced): smaller plates, beautiful patio that's covered (2.1)
- Monsoon Seattle (Vietnamese); super good! (2.4)
- Communion (Southern soul food) (2.4)
- Cafe Flora (vegetarian) (3.4)
- Frelard Tamales (+ a walk around nearby Green Lake or a trip to Woodland Park Zoo) (5.6)
- Sea Wolf Bakers (best bakery and bread spot): to-die-for croissants, great to grab and then walk down to Gas Works Parks; right next to an also-very-good bagel spot (5.6)
- Joule (Korean/Asian fusion), exceedingly good cocktails and their brunch is fabulous, highlights include the bone marrow, black cod, and squid ink rice (5.7)



Your TO DO List

- Join the NIFTI and AgALN Listservs and engage: ask questions, give answers.
- List your program on the MAP (and help us keep it updated!)
- Participate in Webinars & Host a Networking Session
- Complete the Bi-Annual Network Survey to share results
- Check out the online Resource Library; send us your resources to post and share!
- Join the Leadership Team!
- Tell us how the FIELD Network can support your program!

<https://nesfp.org/national-and-state-networks>



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