



PROGRAM APPLICATION 2021-22 PROGRAM

In 2021-2022, Southern Illinois Farm Beginnings plans a special expanded one year program to reach out to young and underrepresented farmers with the intent to teach whole farm financial management and marketing, farming skills for specialty crops and humane animal husbandry, and navigation of land and resource access. People ready to begin their farm or within their first 10 years farming are encouraged to apply. Throughout the program, farmers lead in-person and virtual sessions, sharing their experiences with beginning farmers. The inclusion of farming skills training reduces trial-and-error approaches, saves financial and human resources and improves success. All farmer trainees develop and present their farm plan, participate in a farmer mentorship and become members of the Food Works' Farming Alliance network upon completion of the program.

Application directions: Please answer the questions on the following pages, attaching additional sheets if necessary. For timely consideration, email your application to info@fwsoil.org **OR** mail your application to: Food Works, Box 3855, Carbondale, Illinois, 62902 and follow up with a phone call to Program Coordinator Marjorie Sawicki at (618) 407-8033.

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: (h): _____ (c): _____

Best time to call: _____

Will a farm partner participate in SIFB with you?

Yes

No

Partner's Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Partner's relationship to you _____

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Please indicate your highest level of education:

Some high school

High school diploma

Some college

Bachelor's Degree

Grad/Professional Degree

2. Describe any and all experience you have related to farming or farm planning and management.

3. Have you had experience preparing any of the following financial documents? For what purposes?

• Cash flow: Yes No Purpose:

• Budget: Yes No Purpose:

• Balance sheets: Yes No Purpose:

4. Are you currently farming?*(Circle one) Yes No

*Please note that for the purposes of this application, “farming” can include 1) starting a farm, 2) transitioning an existing farm from conventional to sustainable production, 3) working as a manager, employee or intern on someone else’s farm. Applicants are encouraged to have farming experience, however it is not necessary to own land or currently be farming to be accepted to the program.

If you answered “yes,” please complete the Farm Information section below.

If you answered “no,” please proceed to the Goals and Expectations section on page 4.

FARM INFORMATION

1. What is the name of your farm?

4. How many acres are you currently farming?

2. Please describe the location where you are currently farming if different from your contact information above:

5. How many total years have you farmed?

City/State:

6. Please describe how you marketed your farm products in 2021: (Check all that apply)

County:

CSA

3. What arrangement best describes you in the 2021 growing season?

Farmers’ markets

Working on my own farm

Farmer Cooperative

Renting farmland

Roadside stand or farm store

Full-time internship/mentorship

Internet sales

Part-time internship/mentorship

Wholesale to restaurants

Other (specify) _____

Wholesale to stores

Other (specify) _____

7. What products did you produce in 2021?
(Check all that apply)

- Vegetables
- Small Fruit
- Tree Fruit
- Flowers
- Honey
- Poultry
- Alternative/specialty grains
- Other (specify) _____

8. Which best describes your farming methods practiced during the 2021 season?

- Organic practices-not certified
- Certified organic
- Transitioning to certified organic
- Certified Naturally Grown
- Certified Animal Welfare Approved
- IPM (integrated pest management)
- Other (specify) _____

9. In what geographic area did market your products in 2021?

10. What percentage of your household income in 2021 has come from farming?

- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- None (please explain)

11. What do you expect to be your total income from farming in 2021?

- Less than \$1,000
- \$1,000-\$2,999
- \$3,000-\$4,999
- \$5,000-\$9,999
- \$10,000-\$14,999
- \$15,000-\$19,999
- \$20,000-\$29,999
- \$30,000-\$39,999
- \$40,000 or more

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

1. What farming enterprise(s) are you considering?
(Please check all that apply.)

- Vegetables
- Tree Fruit
- Goats
- Cattle
- Hogs
- Poultry
- Flowers
- Honey
- Dairy
- Eggs
- Alternative/specialty grains
- Other (specify) _____
- Small Fruit
- Sheep

2. What are your goals and how do you think this program can help you?

3. What do you see as your biggest obstacle in starting your own farm operation or achieving your farming goals?

4. After completing the SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM BEGINNINGS® program, when do you expect to begin farming? *(Note: To be eligible for ESFSI support, farmer trainees must begin actively farming by August of 2022. See Program Cost Section on page 7.)*

- Already farming
- Within 1 year
- Within 2-3 years
- Within 4-5 years
- After 5 years

5. The 2021-2022 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM BEGINNINGS® program will include a series of field days that will run throughout the growing season in 2022. Historically, these have been held on the second Monday evening of the month. Field days will be primarily in-person, outdoors on the farm, socially distanced and masked as appropriate. We will continue to follow public health guidance regarding COVID-19 safety. If necessary, some field days could be held virtually or as small group or one-on-one farm tours.

Please describe any conflicts that would prevent you from participating in field days:

6. The SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM BEGINNINGS® program also includes a one-on-one mentorship with an experienced farmer that will take place throughout the 2022 growing season. Experienced farmers share their insights, helping beginning farmers build competency in farming skills. Farmer trainees work with Food Works staff to identify a mentor who will help them grow toward their farming goals. Each mentorship relationship is unique, but this 10-hour commitment usually includes 1 visit to the mentor's farm, 1 visit to the farmer trainee's farm, and additional communications including phone calls or emails.

Please describe any conflicts that would prevent you from participating in a farmer mentorship.

REFERENCES

1. How did you hear about SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FARM BEGINNINGS®?

2. Please provide one personal reference.

Reference name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (home): _____ (m): _____

PROGRAM COST

Tuition for the 2021-2022 Program is \$450, and includes all classroom and on-farm instruction, books & supplies.

_____ I am interested in a payment plan.

_____ I would like to be considered for the one-time Entrepreneurial Small Farmers of Southern Illinois (ESFSI) program scholarship.

Entrepreneurial Small Farmers of Southern Illinois (ESFSI) provides education, mentorship, and technical assistance to support new and beginning farmers' dreams of a sustainable farm business using an entrepreneurial model. ESFSI seeks to increase diversity within farming in Southern Illinois. Today's new farmers may not have grown up on the farm where the knowledge, skills, tools and land for farming were transferred within the family. If you've been planning a farming venture or if you've been farming less than 10 years, then you are who we are looking for.

If you are interested in being considered for this one year only opportunity, please tell us more about yourself:

Primary applicant

Farm partner (if applicable)

Age: _____

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Gender: _____

Primary applicant

Farm partner (if applicable)

Veteran: _____

Veteran: _____

Person of color: _____

Person of color: _____

LGBTQ: _____

LGBTQ: _____

Will you be actively farming by August 2022? (circle one) Yes No

If you are farming now, how long have you been farming?

_____ Farming 1-3 years

_____ Farming 3-7 years

_____ Farming 7-10 years

_____ Farming over 10 years