

# Fast Track Farmer Program Application

Central State University, the Coit Road Farmers Market and Food Strong are producing a beginning farmer program, for aspiring farmers interested in starting their own farm business. The program is designed to provide one growing season of support for beginning farmers with a hands-on demonstration farm site.

**Program participants will receive one season of support in growing their farm business, including the following benefits at no charge:**

- ❖ Over 60 hours of hands-on training from CSU Extension on all aspects (growing, planning and business skills) of operating a market produce farm.
- ❖ Access to a demonstration vegetable plot to apply skills learned and grow produce. Participants can keep any income generated from farm sales at the Coit Road Farmers' Market.
- ❖ Support in developing a farm business plan, accessing USDA grant and loan programs and finding land at the end of the program.
- ❖ A certificate from Central State University Extension following completion of Year 1 of the program identifying curriculum and classes attended.

**Program Requirements:**

- Participation in weekly on-farm classes from April thru October.
- Completion of class assignments, such as conducting soil tests, completing business plan, etc.
- Commitment working in demonstration plots for an additional 2 hours/week during the growing season for planting, plot maintenance and sales at the Market.
- Please check one of the following:

I do not plan to grow food to sell as a business. I am eligible to attend all on-site classes and sessions. However, I will not be eligible to attend off-site training and conferences.

I plan to grow food to sell as a business. I commit to attending the on-site sessions to be eligible to receive my certificate.

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (alternate number) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact and Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have reliable transportation (car, bus, etc.) to the farm on the Coit Road Farmers' Market site at 15000 Woodworth Rd, East Cleveland, 44110?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you comfortable using a computer program (such as Excel or Google Sheets) to keep farm records?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like additional training on using these programs to keep records?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

How much experience do you have using Google cloud tools, such as Google Docs, Sheets or Drive?

None \_\_\_\_\_ Very Little \_\_\_\_\_ Some \_\_\_\_\_ A lot \_\_\_\_\_ I'm an expert \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to receive communication about classes and class material?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Email
- \_\_\_\_\_ Online class software (such as Google Classroom)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Text
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please write in)

Describe your experience growing food. (How many years? For sale or personal/family consumption?)

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