



HAYES URBAN TEACHING FARM - Regenerative Farming Certificate program

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nbchg.org/urban-teaching-farm-project/

Who is the Regenerative Farming Certificate (RFC) program for? The primary focus of the Hayes Urban Teaching Farm is to provide an intensive experiential learning opportunity to individuals who are interested in immersing themselves in small-scale, regenerative agriculture. Participants of the RFC program will consist of a range of ages and will have varying life experiences. Are you adventurous and adaptable? Do you like to co-create with others and get your hands dirty? **The Regenerative Farming Certificate just might be for you!**

The Hayes Farm is location at 577 Hillcrest Drive in Fredericton, NB. Our classroom will be off site, but within walking distance of the farm. Both are within city limits, and accessible by foot, bike, bus, or car.





Concept

- Fundamental knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for self-employment in small scale regenerative organic crop farming, or a meaningful career in local agriculture
- Create foundation training for entry level upon which future individualized pathways can be designed depending on participants' needs and goals

Program Scope

- Regenerative Organic farming production (not certified)
 - Small scale - 1.25 acres of land
- Market garden crops
 - NB hardy
 - Native/natural
 - Vegetables/herbs/fruit
- The program will be broken down into 4 major areas of study
 - Crop production (from soil to harvest)
 - The Business of Farming (basic business and marketing skills)
 - Farm Philosophy (food security, land care and self-care, etc.)
 - Beyond the Farm (field trips, seed saving, value adding, etc)
- Land stewardship including integration of traditional indigenous knowledge and practices

Requirements for Application

- At least 18 years of age
- Hold Canadian citizenship or hold a valid Canadian visa (including applicable health insurance) or status to reside in Canada
- Instruction will be in English so you will need to be competent (or have the necessary support) in written and oral communication, as well as basic numeracy and computer skills, and access to a computer

Tentative Program Schedule & Duration

- 32 weeks in alignment with growing season
- The tentative program dates are Monday April 30*, 2018 through Friday December 7*, 2018

Schedule

The program is full days Monday - Thursday, and a half day on Friday; roughly 4½ days per week. From mid-June to early September, participants should expect to help run Thursday evening farmers' market shifts (approx 4-10pm) ; 3-4 times over 12 weeks, on rotation.

Anticipated Areas of Study

- Plant Anatomy and Physiology
- Plant Growth and Development



- Plant Pathology
- Plant Propagation
- Introduction to Weed Ecology
- Introduction to Insect Ecology
- Pest Management
- Farm Tools - Use and Care
- Principles of Regenerative Agriculture
- Site Assessment, Preparation and Maintenance
- Soil Science (including types and composition, assessment, organic soil matter, and management)
- Composting Application and Production
- Water Quality, Collection and Irrigation methods
- Crop Production
- Crop planning/field mapping
- Site Planning and Assessment
- Basic Carpentry (including hand and power use and safety)
- Farm (Workplace) Safety
- Related Regulations and Legislation
- Food Safety
- Organic Certification
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Introduction to Business
- Sharing Economy
- Business Planning (Creation of)
- Financial Management
- Sales and Marketing
- Basic Accounting
- Budgeting
- Written Communication
- Record Keeping
- Interpersonal Communications
- Customer service
- Self -Care – yoga, ergonomics
- Indigenous food ways
- Food Justice (including agroecology, 7 pillars of food sovereignty, food system, crises, etc)

As time allows:

- Seed saving
- Value-added
- Holistic Mgmt (biodiversity, companion planting and alternative cropping systems, 'farming smarter not harder' etc)
- Networks and support systems (community, organization, government)

Program Details

Participation in our pilot year (2018 season) will be a unique opportunity for learning, as well as critiquing and contributing to the formation of the Regenerative Farming Certificate program at the Hayes Farm. Our pilot cohort will be a small group (8-10) who are expected to give ongoing constructive review of the teaching materials and program layout. It is equally important that this special group commit to the entire 32 weeks of the program, and be flexible as they work and study (within the scheduled Monday-Friday), to help evaluate the structure of the pilot year. Materials will not be available online and student success depends on being in class and present for field work. Instruction will be in English, and students will need to be competent (or have the necessary support) in written and oral communication, as well as basic numeracy and computer skills, and access to a computer.



Program Cost

Participation in this pilot year is a true exchange of learning and energy. We will not be collecting tuition from our participants this year, but do require a “Key to Learning Deposit” to hold your seat and help cover start-up costs. In recognizing a variety of participant circumstances, the suggested deposit is on a sliding scale of \$200-\$1,000. This deposit is due by April 13, 2018. Given the participants full contribution of participation, time, and feedback, half of the deposit will be returned at the end of the program. This contribution may require participation in filling out surveys, participating in evaluation workshops, and periodic individual interviews.

Program Design Considerations

- Hands on applied learning (60%) with integrated theory (40%)
- Emphasis on field study
- Competency-based (little-to-no testing or written assessment)
- Flexibility to adjust tasks/lessons to weather
- Off-site field trips for introduction to alternative practices/methods (ie orchard, livestock, processing, apiculture, etc.)

Program Framework

- Holistic approach
 - Integration of traditional Indigenous knowledge and practices throughout
 - Learning Benchmark - the Seven Pillars of Food Sovereignty
<https://foodsecurecanada.org/who-we-are/what-food-sovereignty>

Anticipated Program Outcomes

- Plan, create and maintain small scale field crop production
- Apply regenerative organic methods in the production of fields crops on a small scale
- Practice and promote the Seven Pillars of Food Sovereignty
- Integrate knowledge of and skills in sustainable, organic agriculture production with small business and entrepreneurial skills
- Create a business plan for a small scale field crop farm
- Incorporate traditional Indigenous traditional practices and philosophies in the planning, creating and maintaining small scale crop production
- Investigate opportunities to apply the principles of the sharing economy in the managing and maintaining of the crop farm
- Promote the local food movement by working with community partners
- Practice environmental and self-care to protect the health and welfare of both

***Indicates a change has been made from the original program outline document**