

EXPLORING THE SMALL FARM DREAM

Is Starting an
Agricultural Business
Right for You?



November 4 to December 2, 2009
Airlie Center, Warrenton, VA
Presented by
THE LOCAL FOOD PROJECT
AT AIRLIE
&
THE PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL

Airlie Foundation
6809 Airlie Road
Warrenton, VA 20187

COST:

\$150 for four sessions, including interactive workbook.. A limited number of scholarships are available. For scholarship applications, contact Stacey Carlberg at scarlberg@pecva.org.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Contact Pablo Elliott at pelliott@airlie.org or 540-347-1300 ext. 3163. All participants must agree to be present at each session before registering.

COURSE FACILITATORS:

Pablo Elliott
-Local Food Project at Airlie

Don Loock and Stacey Carlberg
-Piedmont Environmental Council



Guest Speakers
-Several farm business owners
covering a range of innovative enterprises



ABOUT THE COURSE.



If you've ever considered launching a small farm enterprise, but were not sure where to start, this course is for you!

Designed to help guide you through an initial exploratory decision-making process, "Exploring the Small Farm Dream" bridges the gap between ideas and action.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Creative exercises, research and class discussions that will help you assess your skills and resources
- Interviews with local farm business owners that will assist you in deciding how to carry your dream forward
- The opportunity to connect with others interested in starting new agricultural enterprises in our region

To ensure quality, in-depth discussions and meaningful interactions among participants, the Explorer class will be limited to a maximum of 24 small farm dreamers.

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND ALL FOUR SESSIONS AND CONDUCT FIVE HOURS OF HOME STUDY EACH WEEK.

For background information on the course, visit the New England Small Farm Institute at www.smallfarm.org.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Day and time: Four Wednesday evening sessions from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Location: Airlie Center, 6809 Airlie Road, Warrenton, VA

Coffee and refreshments will be provided.



November 4th, Session I:

Expressing Farm Dreams and Evaluating Goals

November 11th, Session II:

Researching the Landscape and Interviewing Current Farm Innovators

November 18th, Session III:

Assessing Resources and Risk

December 2nd, Session IV:

Decision-Making and Identification of Next Steps

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Career changers and farm newbies breaking into agricultural pursuits
- Farm apprentices interested in launching their own start-ups
- Current farmers expanding into a new enterprise

SMALL FARM POSSIBILITIES:

- A market farm operation specializing in heirloom vegetables
- A pick-your-own orchard project
- A pastured poultry operation
- A goat dairy selling cheese and yogurt
- A garden supplying cut flowers to restaurants
- A farm bed and breakfast
- Add your own small farm dream to the list!



EXPLORING YOUR DREAMS:

It is important to note that this course will not teach you how to farm or how to run a farm business. Through facilitated independent study potential new farmers/enterprise owners have the opportunity to explore their farm business ideas and clarify next steps.