

Fast Track Farmer Program Application

Central State University and the Coit Road Farmers Market are launching a produce 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 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 Monday evening 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.
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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 Famers' 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?)
