

# FARM Organic Growers School

## BEGINNINGS®

Year-Long Farmer Training

### 2016-2017 Scholarship Application

Organic Growers School aims to create affordable, broadly accessible programs, while at the same time, providing fair wages to our farmer instructors and dedicated staff. Financial Aid for Farm Beginnings is limited and priority is given to those with the least financial resources and strongest intentions towards raising funds through their own networks. Please consider your needs and resources carefully. We encourage you to consider a Payment Plan as your first option towards financial support. If requesting funding from OGS is necessary, we ask you to consider what would be a stretch, but not a strain, for you to invest in your education.

The guidelines that will be used to assess are as follows:

- Financial need
- Passion and capacity for farming
- Ability and willingness to give back to program
- Understanding of the value of this farmer training education

### 2016-2017 Scholarship Application

**If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, fill out this form and return by August 31st, 2016:**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email/ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Valuing Education

University systems are often heavily funded and subsidized institutions with vast infrastructure and highly paid faculty and staff. As a grassroots non-profit we are able to see and fill an educational need not currently offered through institutional education. While we run a lean organization, we do rely on income from our students to make these programs happen. Please consider this farmer training education as invaluable as you would a university or college education. Learning to thrive in a land-based life takes courage and dedication as well as support and training. Your contribution to what you're getting helps us continue to support aspiring and emerging farmers.

1. Did you attend university or college? When?/Where?
  
2. Do you currently owe on college loans? **(circle one) Yes                      No**
  - a. If yes, how much is owed?
  
3. How did you pay for college? (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents/Family
<input type="checkbox"/> Loans	<input type="checkbox"/> Self

Other (please explain):

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4. Do you have significant savings, a family fund, or do you have family/friends willing to support you in your education endeavors?
  
5. Describe your current support system that allows you to explore a land-based life:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Do you see farmer training as crucial to your success as a farmer?:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Are you willing to ask your family and community circles for financial support? If so, who can you imagine asking in your community?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Are you willing to do a work trade for part of your tuition? This would entail coming early to classes or staying late to help with room set-up and clean-up, being available during lunch breaks to assist as needed, data entry for events as needed, etc.. (Only 2 work-trade spots available) (circle one)

**Yes**            **No**

9. Are you willing to do personal fundraising through online media or community events? You can also check out our “How to Fundraise” tips on our website: (circle one)

**Yes**            **No**

10. How much do you feel you'd be able to pay? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is the dollar amount you are requesting in scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of need:** Please limit to 1.5 pages, only partial scholarships are given. Your statement should address:

- a. Financial need: While we will look at your tax statement, please indicate personally why you need financial support
- b. Your passion and capacity for farming: This is also included in our main application, but please be as specific as possible.
- c. Your ability and willingness to give back to program: In the future, by hosting farm visits, teaching classes or workshops, or volunteering at OGS events.
- d. The dollar amount that you are requesting. Remember that payment plans are available.

Please include:

1. **A copy of your last 2 years in tax returns:** Year 2014 and 2015. This information will only be reviewed by the scholarship committee and will be kept confidential.

Please send all information to:

**Mail:** Farm Beginnings, Scholarship Committee  
Organic Growers School,  
PO Box 17804, Asheville, NC 28816

**OR**

**Email:** Scan documents and email to [nicole@organicgrowersschool.org](mailto:nicole@organicgrowersschool.org)

\*Please be sure to double check that you have completed all requested information and sent tax documentation.\*

*Awards will be determined by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

THANK YOU!