



2021-2022 Course Schedule

Pre session	October 24th In Person 2-4 pm	Meet and Greet at Smith Mill Works Pond	Participants are invited to a meet and greet to get to know one another and the facilitators.
1	October 28th	Starting on Solid Ground: Connecting Values & Goals Nicole DelCogliano	Introduction to Holistic Goal, a core component of whole Farm Planning and a proven tool for sustainable farm management. Participants will work with their holistic goal and how our land, as well as our community and behavior must be in order to sustain our vision for generations to come.
2	November 4th	Holistic Goal: Decision Making on the Farm Sara Jane Davis A Way of Life Farm	Session 2 You will also learn how to use the Holistic Goal in whole farm planning to develop an effective framework for decision-making that reflects your personal values, goals and life vision
3	November 11th	Reconciling Agriculture's Legacy Nicole DelCogliano Dallas Robinson Harriet Tubman Freedom Farm	In Session 3, we will take a deep dive into exploring the complexity of the US food and agriculture system through the lens of power, privilege, and racial equity.
4	November 18th	Business Foundations Clarenda Cee Stanley Green Heffa Farm	In Session 4 Learn from a farmer's perspective how they accessed land and capital to start their business. You will explore best practices when starting a business entity and learn how to find resources for your farm enterprise. Explore alternative funding opportunities to help your farm business thrive. Discuss the activism that comes with being a farmer, and how to harness your voice as an advocate for justice..

5	December 2nd	Financial Planning 101 Against the Grain Holly Whitesides	You will have the opportunity to see real numbers from an established farmer's financial plan and learn about the realities of planning the financial part of the farm business. Recordkeeping examples will be provided and you will be shown how to integrate this important skill into your everyday farm life.
6	December 9th	Land Assessment and Access	Session 6 will showcase a panel of farmers and ag support specialists to discuss access to land in farming. Current resources will be provided regarding leasing, buying, conservation, land design, management and use.
	December 15th	In person Meet up / Networking	If possible, we will meet up in person
7	December 16th	Enterprise Development Kimberly Hunter and Nicole DelCogliano	Session 7 examines your beliefs about money as we investigate enterprise planning. We will work with the enterprise decision guide and aligning enterprises with resources will be explored. We will discuss minimum viable product and workshop enterprise ideas and help participants align and ground farm enterprise ideas with financial needs and with quality of life.
			BREAK
8	January 6th	Financial Planning 103: Cash Flow Tumbling Shoals	In Session 8, participants will dissect the different components of management that occur on a successful farm business. The farmer presenter will illustrate the value of budgeting annual income and expenses as a tool to help make decisions and plan for profit, including cash flow templates.

9	January 13th	Growing Season Learning Plan	In preparation for mentorship, participants will work on their Growing Season Learning Plan and goals for the upcoming year, preparing for mentorships and other OGS events for Farm Beginnings.
	January 20th	Mentor Meet up In person	Mentorship Meet up : Mentors and Farm Beginnings students meet and learn about each others' farm dreams and farms. Small groups will allow participants to develop understandings of the possible mentors that will be a good match for them and their learning.
10	January 27th	Rayburn Farms	In Session 10, participants hear from Rayburn Farms and their innovative business strategy and design.
11	February 10th	Marketing and Planning Off Grid in Color Chatel V. Johnson	We will explore what is involved in sound business planning, decision-making, and developing the skills to successfully start & operate a farm business. Introduces marketing concepts how to put these to use to develop a marketing plan that pursues one's goals. Participants develop knowledge of marketing channels and how to know your customer.
12	February 24th	Business Planning To Do's/ Nuts and Bolts	In session 12 , we will review, ask questions, and offer technical expertise that could include Taxes and Legal, Insurance, review of business structures Enterprise Development and budgets, land access, recordkeeping, Business start up- We will each host a break out room on a certain topic and folks can self select which they would like to focus on
ASAP's BOF	February 26th	ASAP's Business of Farming Conference	Participants attend Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project's one-day conference with workshops on business planning, direct and wholesale marketing, agritourism, food safety, meetings with regional buyers, and one-on-one business, legal and marketing consulting.
	March 10th, 2022	Farm Beginnings	Wrap up and integrate learning from ASAP BOF and prepare for SC tracks
Spring Conference	March 18-20th 2022(in person social)	OGS Spring Conference Tracks	OGS Spring Conference offers a wealth of organic focused practical education opportunities. Over the course of two days participants can choose from over 100 different workshops. Students are encouraged to participate in the Farming track workshops, and other workshops that align with your farm plan.
13	March 24th, 2022	Final Wrap Up	
14	September 15th, 2022	Final Project: Final Presentations	The final session participants present their farm proposal in the context of their growing season experience, synthesizing the work done throughout the course. It is also a final end-of-program celebration to motivate students as they move forward on their own in pursuit of their farm dream.

One-on-one	March-September	Mentorship	Participants are matched with a Mentor Farmer for 15 hours of one-on-one support and skill-building during the summer season. This time can be used on farm and off to develop production and business skills with an experienced farmer.
CRAFT	April-September	CRAFT Farm Tours	Participants attend up to 10 farm tours hosted by CRAFT Farm Members. Topics change each year and cover practices like cover crops, vegetable production, livestock, marketing, production planning, and more. Schedule TBD.
On farm Workshops	All year	SAHC Workshops	Participants can attend sustainable living, food and farm production oriented workshops hosted at SAHC Schedule TBD.