



CASE STUDIES

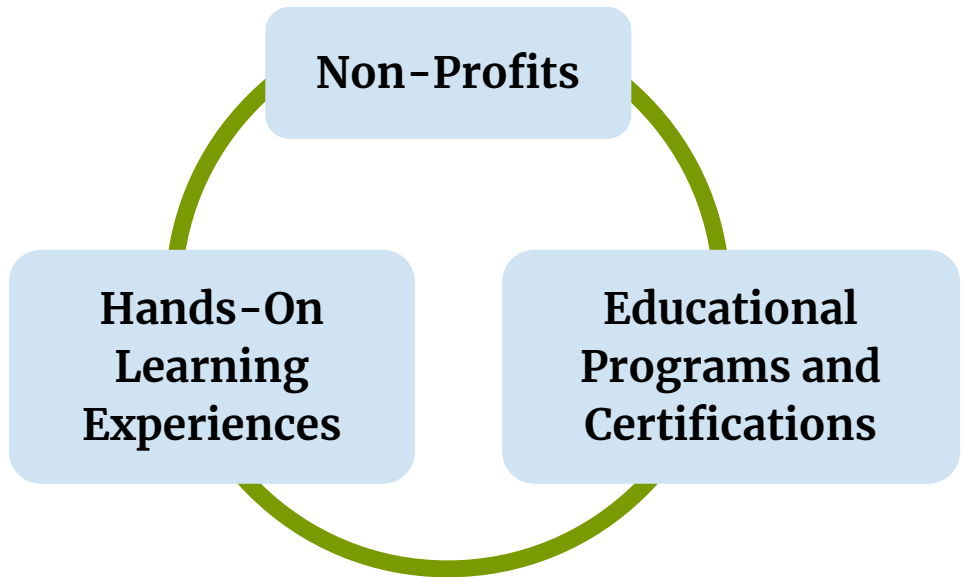
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: MENTORSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A MORE RESILIENT, CARING, INCLUSIVE ECONOMY THAT CAN WITHSTAND, ADAPT, INNOVATE, AND TRANSFORM IN THE FACE OF NATURAL AND HUMAN DISASTERS.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THESE CASE STUDIES

This is a collection of case studies for mentorship and education programs for the next generation of farmers. During focus group conversations with the food and agriculture industry in the North Country, participants expressed the need to develop programs or build off of existing programs that provide hands-on learning experiences for children and adults of all ages and improve education within food and agriculture. This Case Study has five examples of farming businesses and programs that provide training, courses, and community involvement for livestock and agricultural farming.

Examples Of



the talking farm



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SCAN ME

MISSION & VISION

TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, EXAMPLE, AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO EXPAND THE AWARENESS, IMPORTANCE, AND AVAILABILITY OF FOOD-GROWN SUSTAINABILITY.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Talking Farm is a non-profit based out of Illinois, focused on educating the community on sustainable food production through hands-on experience. The organization offers 12 educational programs to increase awareness of the impact food has on the environment, social justice, and health. The Talking Farm develops partnerships and programs with other local organizations and schools to reach multiple age groups and various levels of physical abilities. Additionally, they offer a stipend internship and certification program for those in the community looking to develop skills around managing sustainable, urban farms. Every year, The Talking Farm distributes over 21,000 pounds of produce to the community through food pantries, restaurants, farmers' markets, and a membership program.

HOW IT WORKS:



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Programs for all ages are held on the farm or in the classroom and aim to educate on biodiversity, sustainability, horticulture, social justice, and urban agriculture.



INTERNSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS

Community members can apply to complete a stipend internship or certification to develop skills to manage urban farms through hands-on instruction through The Talking Farm Staff



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| MISSION & VISION

"GROUNDSWELL EMPOWERS PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS WITH SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES, SO WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A MORE JUST, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM."

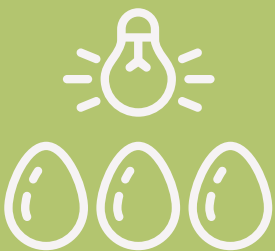
ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

·Located in the Finger Lakes region of New York, Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming provides training for individuals to become sustainable farmers. Groundswell works to address the inequalities around who producers are, due to lack of access to land and resources. To dismantle the racism that is within our food system, Groundswell focuses on the inclusion of people of color, refugees, women, and individuals with limited resources.

HOW IT WORKS:

Incubator Farm Program

Starting a farm can come with a high cost. The Incubator Farm Program assists new farmers with access to affordable land and trainings for food production and business.



Farm Training Program

A several month program focused on vegetable production and livestock through hands-on education.



Workshops

Hands-on training on farming and land-use practices with a sliding scale fee structure to make services affordable for all community members.



Webinars

A monthly webinar focused on the intersection of food, agriculture, and social justice.





D ACRES
PERMACULTURE FARM &
EDUCATIONAL HOMESTEAD

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MISSION & VISION

"DEVELOPMENT AIMED AT CREATING RURAL ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY". D ACRES IS A PERMACULTURE FARM AND EDUCATIONAL HOMESTEAD THAT AIMS TO PROVIDE A SPACE TO DEVELOP SKILLS WITHIN SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND SMALL-SCALE ORGANIC FARMING.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

As a New Hampshire-based organization, D Acres' provides a space for people to improve their impact on the environment and community through education. Education programs focus on organic farming, forestry, landscaping, eco-friendly construction, and cottage crafts. D Acres also offers school programs that look to support the education of farm skills and nature-based learning.

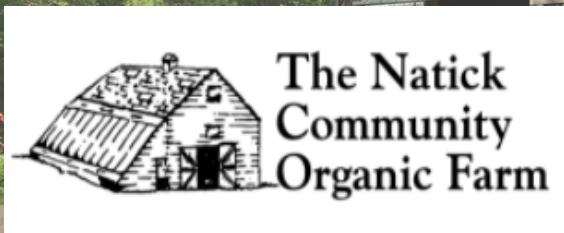


HOW IT WORKS:

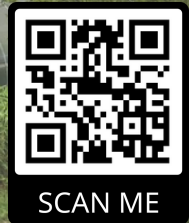
School Programs focus on creating school gardens, nature trails, compost education, and farm-to-cafeteria meals. D Acres' vision is to empower students by developing an understanding of where their food comes from. Programs include K-12 and college internships, tours, and residency.

People can also **camp or stay** in the hostile at D Acres to develop skills and improve their impact on the environment.





TO LEARN MORE...



MISSION & VISION

"THE NATICK COMMUNITY ORGANIC FARM IS A NONPROFIT, CERTIFIED-ORGANIC FARM. WE PROVIDE PRODUCTIVE OPEN SPACE, FARM PRODUCTS, AND HANDS-ON EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES, YEAR-ROUND. THE NATICK COMMUNITY FARM IS ABOUT FARMING IN THE PUBLIC EYE. VISITORS TO THE FARM LEARN WHAT FOOD LOOKS LIKE BEFORE IT GETS PROCESSED, REFINED, OR PACKAGED. WE DEMONSTRATE HOW TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE LAND AND THE ANIMALS, AND WE'RE EXCITED TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION ABOUT STEWARDSHIP, ECOLOGY, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY."

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The organization, originally called Red Wing Farm, moved to its current spot in 1975 and started as a place of employment for local teens to grow and sell vegetables. Today, Natick Community Organic Farm provides numerous options of how to learn about food at the farm. Students and community members can learn how food is produced, about animals on the farm, and about environmental stewardship.

HOW IT WORKS:

- PROGRAM OPTIONS**
- School Programs (PreK-12)
 - Summer Programs
 - After School
 - Homeschool
 - 4-H Program
 - Teen Work
 - Apprenticeship
 - Adult Programs



School Program Activities can include tours for learning how to make maple syrup, using the farm as a "Living Laboratory" to understand the production of healthy food, or Work-Study to learn about agricultural science. Many of the programs are set up to meet the MA Curriculum Framework Standards.



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| MISSION & VISION

"AT FARMSHARE AUSTIN, OUR MISSION IS TO GROW A HEALTHY, JUST, AND EQUITABLE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM BY INCREASING COMMUNITY. FOOD ACCESS AND CULTIVATING NEW FARMERS. WE ENVISION A FUTURE OF RESILIENT LOCAL FOOD ECONOMIES THAT ENSURES EQUITABLE ACCESS TO FOOD AND TO THE RESOURCES NEEDED FARM. FARMSHARE AUSTIN BUILDS BRIDGES BETWEEN THE PRODUCE GROWN ON OUR 10-ACRE CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARM IN EASTERN TRAVIS COUNTY AND FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS REACHING FOOD INSECURE COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL TEXAS."

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Farmshare Austin has a heavy focus on farming education and food access. To address the inequality in food access within the area of Austin, Farmshare hopes to educate new farmers and provide produce at a reduced price to communities that are facing economic and geographic barriers. They offer curb-side delivery and mobile markets to expand who is able to consume healthy, local produce.

HOW IT WORKS:

Farmshare offers a five-month Farm Starter program that combines lecture and field training to prepare new farmers with the skills to manage a sustainable market farm.

TRAINING AREAS:

- Organic, regenerative, and sustainable growing methods
- Soil health and fertility management
- Organic pest and disease control methods
- Greenhouse management and propagation
- Holistic farm planning & crop planning
- Equipment use & maintenance
- Business Planning
- Marketing

