



**LAND  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROJECT**

**FARM BEGINNINGS®**  
Application 2014-2015

Name (Primary Contact): \_\_\_\_\_

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

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph#: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Which class location you will be attending: Watertown, MN  La Crosse, WI  Ashland, WI   
*(The Ashland WI Lake Superior Farm Beginnings program is held in partnership with the Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Association)*

Are you an LSP member? Yes or No

How did you hear about Farm Beginnings (please mark box and list a specific source)?

Internet  Magazine  Newspaper  Conference/Event  Word of Mouth  Other

Specific Source in relation to above: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended Farm Dreams? Yes or No

Will you be applying for a scholarship? Yes or No *(partial scholarships available, please see scholarship application)*

Do you have any special needs we should know of? \_\_\_\_\_

*The \$1,500 tuition fee covers up to TWO applicants who are farming partners on the same farm*

**Early Bird Discount  
Apply By  
August 1st  
Save \$100**

Name of Farming Partner (see above): \_\_\_\_\_  
*Relationship to primary contact* \_\_\_\_\_

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

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph#: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

**EACH APPLICANT MUST answer the following questions. If you need more space, feel free to attach additional sheets.**

Why are you interested in farming?

Provide a brief summary of the school(s) you have attended:

Provide a brief summary of your work experience(s):

Please list ALL agricultural experience you have had (include conferences, workshops, internships, employment, field days, farm tours, volunteer positions, etc...

What are you currently doing?

What are your future farming goals:

1-5 years:

5-10 years:

How do you think Farm Beginnings can help you move toward your farming goals?

What do you see as your biggest obstacle in starting your own farm enterprise?

Which farming enterprises are you considering (**Rank your top 3 choices by marking #1, #2, #3**):

dairy \_\_\_ beef \_\_\_ sheep \_\_\_ goats \_\_\_ hogs \_\_\_ crops & hay \_\_\_ vegetables \_\_\_  
flowers \_\_\_ fruit \_\_\_ poultry \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Check the statement that best describes your access to land for your current or future farming enterprises:

I do not have access to land \_\_\_\_\_

I have access to rented land \_\_\_\_\_

I own land \_\_\_\_\_

List something unique about yourself:

Please list any additional questions or considerations you have about the Farm Beginnings program?

# PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

Rate Your Farming and Business Skill Levels

No experience	Some Exposure	Competency
1	2	3

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS	Applicant Rating (1,2 or 3)	
	Applicant 1	Applicant 2
<b>Production</b>		
Goal setting		
Acquiring land (e.g., rent, lease, purchase)		
Developing production, marketing & financial plans		
Maintaining and repairing tools & equipment		
Maintaining & repairing infrastructure		
Managing soil fertility		
Managing pests, weeds & diseases		
Managing pastures		
Feeding & watering animals		
Monitoring & treating animal health problems		
Managing manure		
Preparing a crop production plan		
Operating equipment & implements safely		
Seeding, planting & harvesting		
Post-harvest handling & storage		
<b>Financial Management</b>		
Setting up bookkeeping & record-keeping systems		
Record keeping (e.g., financial, production, sales)		
Preparing financial statements & tax forms		
Bookkeeping; paying bills & taxes		
Monitoring cash flow		
Managing debt		
Strategic planning		
Grant research and/or fundraising		
<b>Marketing</b>		
Market research		
Networking		
Developing promotional materials and advertising		
Proper communication with customers/buyers		
Selling farm products & services		
Web design and social networking		

# APPLICATION CHECKLIST

To streamline our application process, please refer to the following:

- Farm Beginnings Application Packets must be completed and sent to:  
**Land Stewardship Project**  
**Attn: Karen Benson-Farm Beginnings**  
**PO Box 130**  
**Lewiston, MN 55952**
- Applications will only be accepted via the US Postal Service (no electronic or faxed applications will be reviewed)
- Only complete Application Packets will be reviewed (see checklist below)
- A \$200 deposit is required, the deposit will be refunded to applicants who are not accepted into the program (please make check payable to Land Stewardship Project)
- The application deadline is **Postmarked September 1, 2014.**
- Applicants will be notified via the US Postal Service by or before September 30, 2014 of acceptance into the program.
- Applicants will be notified via the US Postal Service by September 30, 2014 of scholarship awards.
- Correspondence will be sent to the “primary” applicant only

<b>Does your Application Packet Include:</b> (make a checkmark to verify)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm Beginnings Application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$200 Deposit Check
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scholarship Application forms:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statement of Need
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 References <b>***for each applicant***</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2013 Tax Return <b>***for each applicant if not filed jointly***</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Net Worth Statement <b>***for each applicant***</b>

***Please complete this checklist and include it with your application***