



**LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT**

FARM BEGINNINGS®
Application 2015-2016

Name (Primary Contact): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Ph#: (h) _____ (cell) _____

Best time to call: _____

Which class location you will be attending: Amery, WI Glenwood, MN

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
Production		
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		
Financial Management		
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		
Marketing		
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, 2015.**
- Applicants will be notified via email or phone by or before September 30, 2015 of acceptance into the program.
- Applicants will be notified via email or phone by September 30, 2015 of scholarship awards.
- Correspondence will be sent to the “primary” applicant only

Does your Application Packet Include: (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 ***for each applicant***
<input type="checkbox"/>	2014 Tax Return ***for each applicant if not filed jointly***
<input type="checkbox"/>	Net Worth Statement ***for each applicant***

Please complete this checklist and include it with your application