

‘Intro to Conservation on Rented Land’ Workshops in January

A series of Land Stewardship Project introductory workshops focused on conservation leases and conservation practices on rented farmland will be held in January. These virtual, online “Renting It Out Right” workshops are for non-operating landowners and farmers who rent land and would like resources for working with their landlords:

→ **Jan. 12**, 12:30 p.m.- 2 p.m. (featuring Swift County Soil and Water Conservation District)

→ **Jan. 20**, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (featuring Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District)

→ **Jan. 29**, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. (for women landowners and producers only, featuring Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District)

For more information and to register, contact LSP’s Robin Moore at rmoore@landstewardshipproject.org, 320-269-2105, or see www.landstewardshipproject.org/workshops. □

Is Farming in Your Future?

The desire to farm is powerful — sparked by love of food, the land, community, entrepreneurship, and more. But it is a complicated undertaking, and the list of questions to answer before diving in is long. Farm Dreams is a four-hour Land Stewardship Project workshop designed to help people clarify what motivates them to farm, get their vision on paper, inventory their strengths and training needs, and get perspective from an experienced farmer. It’s a good precursor to LSP’s Farm Beginnings course (see below).

Farm Dreams participants will:

- Assess their resources, skills, and motivations for farming.
- Learn about important things to consider when starting to farm.
- Write down their farm vision.
- Develop an educational plan.
- Learn about training opportunities and support networks.
- Talk to an experienced farmer about their path into farming.

Farm Dreams classes are held periodically throughout the year. For dates and to register, see www.landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/farmdreams, or contact LSP’s Annelie Livingston-Anderson at 507-523-3366, annelie@landstewardshipproject.org.



2021-2022 LSP Farm Beginnings Course

The Land Stewardship Project’s Farm Beginnings Program is marking its second decade of providing firsthand training in low-cost, sustainable methods of farm management. Over the years, more than 860 people have graduated from the Minnesota-Wisconsin region Farm Beginnings course. Graduates are involved in a wide-range of enterprises, including grass-based livestock, organic vegetables, Community Supported Agriculture, and specialty products.

The course is for people just getting started in farming, as well as established farmers looking to make changes in their operations. Farm Beginnings participants learn goal setting, financial and enterprise planning, and innovative marketing techniques. This 12-month course provides training and hands-on learning opportunities in the form of regular classroom sessions, as well as farm tours, field days, workshops, and access to an extensive farmer network. Classes are led by farmers and other agricultural professionals.

The next set of classes will run from November 2021 until March 2022, followed by an on-farm component that includes farm tours and skills sessions. Completion of the course fulfills the educational requirements needed for USDA Farm Service Agency loans and the Minnesota Beginning Farmer Tax Credit; for more information on the tax credit, see www.landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/beginningfarmertax-credit.

For more information on the Farm Beginnings course, see www.landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/farmbeginningsclass. You can also get details from LSP’s Annelie Livingston-Anderson at 507-523-3366 or annelie@landstewardshipproject.org.

Beginning Farmer Stories

What’s it like to launch and operate a farm these days? Check out stories of beginning farmers meeting agriculture’s challenges and taking advantage of its opportunities on LSP’s “Talking Beginning Farming” podcast page (www.landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/talkingbeginningfarming) and the “Meet Our Graduates” profile page (www.landstewardshipproject.org/morefarmers/meetourgraduates). □