

OUR MISSION

ACORN's **Grow A Farmer Program** promotes organic farming as a viable and empowering form of livelihood. With a focus on farmer-to-farmer training, the program intends to cultivate, renew and diversify the organic sector in Atlantic Canada through the preservation, growth, and use of local knowledge, land and community.

OUR GOALS

To share knowledge and build community among experienced, new and aspiring organic growers in Atlantic Canada;

To minimize start-up barriers for new entrant farmers and assist them to gain confidence, inspiration and financial profitability from their decision to farm;

To inspire new markets and agricultural opportunities;

To preserve, renew and increase access to farmland in Atlantic Canada.

Take this opportunity to participate in the growing network of new and aspiring organic farmers in Atlantic Canada!



ACORN

CULTIVATING
THE NEXT GENERATION
OF ORGANIC FARMERS
IN ATLANTIC CANADA!

THE ATLANTIC CANADIAN ORGANIC REGIONAL NETWORK'S
FIRST EXPERIENTIAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
FOR ASPIRING AND BEGINNER ORGANIC FARMERS.

ACORN

The Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN) is a membership-based non-profit organization working to enhance the viability and growth of the Atlantic Canadian organic agricultural community through a unified regional network.

JOIN ACORN NOW BY VISITING
www.acornorganic.org/membership.html

For more information about ACORN and the Grow A Farmer Apprenticeship and Mentorship Program please contact:

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The New Brunswick Agricultural Council
Agri-Futures Nova Scotia
The PEI Adapt Council
The Territorial Farmers Association



GROW A FARMER

APPRENTICESHIP & MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
WWW.GROWAFARMER.CA



APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Are you itchin' to get your hands in the soil, but have limited farming experience?

The **Grow A Farmer Apprenticeship Program** will collaborate with a diverse mix of certified organic/transitioning Maritime farms to deliver an intensive tuition-based program offering **comprehensive, curriculum-guided apprenticeships** in certified organic agriculture.

HOW LONG?

On-site farm apprenticeships will take place for seven months, from April to November.*

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- A balance of hands-on learning in the field (approx 35 h/week) and "classroom" learning (approx 5 h/week);
- Educational resources including ACORN's Beginner Farmer Success Manual, Learning Journal and Reading List;
- Discounts on select agricultural events including free access to ACORN's Beginner Farmer Symposium and the annual ACORN Conference and Trade Show;
- Field trips, farm tours, creative projects and much more!



For full registration information and fee details, please visit www.growafarmer.ca

*A limited number of positions are available for students or others with compromised schedules to fulfill a summer-term apprenticeship program (from May-August).

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The **Grow A Farmer Mentorship Program** will serve to pair **beginner farmers with local experienced organic farmers** based on educational goals and areas of agricultural expertise, in order to facilitate the smooth and successful establishment of new organic farms in Atlantic Canada.

ACORN's Mentor Farmers will work one-on-one to help ease the transition for new and aspiring farm-owners, and help build the skills, network and community so necessary for new entrant success.



WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Expert mentor training from long-standing members of the Maritime organic farming community;
- Regular communications between Mentor farmers/Mentees, via phone calls, email, and farm visits;
- Regular opportunities for communications and networking with members of the Atlantic Canadian organic sector!

AND MORE!

This program is **free for ACORN members**, with all Mentors receiving an honorarium for their time and contributions to the community.

LEARNING SERIES

Can't commit to a full season apprenticeship, but still want more opportunities to learn about organic agriculture?

Participate in the Grow A Farmer Learning Series!

To facilitate diverse and timely education throughout the growing season, the **Grow A Farmer Learning Series** will feature monthly webinars, workshops and field trips grounded in education about local organic agricultural practices, delivered by leading experts in the region!

Topics Covered:

- Soil and Fertility Management
- Establishing Organic Market Gardens
- Greenhouse Production and Season Extension
- Field Crops and Grain
- Livestock – Pastured poultry, pork, grass-fed beef cattle
- Medicinal and Culinary Herbs
- Orchard/Small-Fruit Production
- Heritage and Open-Pollinated Seed Production
- Marketing and Financial Profitability
- Organic Certification and Record Keeping
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Harvest Management and Storage
- and much, much, more!*

Grow A Farmer events will be open to ACORN members and to the public for a small fee to support our future efforts in beginner organic farmer training.

