

Farmer to Farmer Mentorship Program

AUA's Farmer to Farmer Mentorship Program seeks to **match beginning farmers** with **experienced farmers** to share in their wealth of knowledge and foster mutually beneficial relationships. This program seeks to expand: **educational opportunities** for growing food in Chicago; **access** to quality, safe food; skills for **environmental conservation** of soil, water, and air in our region; and the web of **collective power** and **solidarity** amongst Chicago area farmers.

We're looking for a variety of beginning and experienced growers to participate in this program throughout the **Winter and Spring of 2020**. Once matched, mentors and mentees are free to structure the relationship to fit their schedules. **Mentors** are compensated for sharing their knowledge while **mentees** are given the opportunity to learn in-depth what it is to be a farmer at no cost. Mentors are expected to encourage good practices and assist the mentee in striving towards a successful growing operation. This cohort will consist of up to 15 pairs. Application does not guarantee acceptance or participation in the program.

This program focuses on the commercial viability and scalability of urban farm businesses.

This program is not intended for home, school, or community gardeners. For support in those areas, please see [AUA's Urban Agriculture Resource Guide](#) for a comprehensive listing of applicable resources and local organizations.

This program, **by farmers and for farmers**, seeks:

- **Mentors:** Farm business owners, farmer trainers, experienced composters, experienced beekeepers, livestock keepers, permaculture instructors, controlled environment and indoor growers
- **Mentees:** Beginning farmers, new farm business owners, Large Lot or property owners interested in starting a farm business, farmers looking to expand their operation into new activities

Mentors will be compensated at a rate of \$25/hour, up to 25 hours per cohort. This program is free to mentees receiving mentorship. The program will run from January 11th - May 31st, 2020.

All program participants must be available Saturday, January 11th, 2020 for orientation.

If you are interested, please submit a completed [application](#), and **résumé** or summary of relevant experience, by **Sunday, December 1st, 2019**. If you would like a downloadable copy of the application to fill out and mail in, click here for the mentor application, and here for the mentee application. Mail to: Advocates for Urban Agriculture, 159 N Sangamon Ave. Chicago, IL 60607.

Equal Opportunity Statement: **AUA works affirmatively to foster inclusive programming** and does not discriminate in the selection of participants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, income, marital status, or any other dimension of identity. **AUA strongly encourages applications from candidates and individuals with voices that have been historically under-represented in the food system**, including but not limited to women, people of color, and indigenous people.

Please contact Viviana at viviana@auachicago.org with any questions.