

Vermont Youth in Agriculture Workshop

Part of the Vermont Food Summit: Bringing Everyone to the Table

University of Vermont

Friday April 10th

"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interest by the most lasting bonds."

–Thomas Jefferson

Part of the week-long series of events, this day is dedicated to looking ahead to the future of food and farming. The purpose of these series of workshops is to provide aspiring young farmers with the necessary support, access to resources, information, and empowerment to be the next generation of food producers. The people that should attend this workshop are students who are or interested in becoming involved with food production, from doing a summer internship to owning their own farm.

Schedule for the Day

8:30-9:00am- Good morning and introductions!

Location: UHeights Multipurpose Room

The day will start with an appropriate amount of caffeine and activities to start the day right (we know it's early for college students, but just think of it as part of the training to become a farmer). Along with getting everyone in the room excited, we'll preview the trailer of the "Greenhorns" documentary and reflect on the reasons why we are all in the room for this day of workshops.

9:00-10:00am- Growing Places and Goal Setting

Led by Beth and Mary of the Women's Agricultural Network

Location: UHeights South Multipurpose Room

This first session and exercise will focus on goal setting and envisioning our futures as young farmers. Mary and Beth will lead a condensed version of WAgN's "Growing Places" workshop and focus on the big picture of what it takes to be an independent farmer in the twenty first century.

10:00-10:45am- Resources for New and Future Farmers

Led by Ben Waterman of the Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Location: UHeights Multipurpose Room

It's important to know your resources and that we are not alone! Ben will review the [Recourse Guide to Vermont's New and Aspiring Farmers](#), and will lead a discussion on areas of the program that are positive and also parts that could change to fit the needs of the next generation of farmers.

10:45-11:30- Internships and Apprenticeships in Vermont

Led by a representative from NOFA VT

Location: UHeights Multipurpose Room

There will be a representative from NOFA-VT to come in and talk about their internship and apprenticeship program. The topics of discussion will range from how to find a good fit with a farmer, what resources are available to interns in Vermont, and how to get the most out of a farming internship.

11:30-12:30pm- Incubator Farms at the Intervale and...

LUNCH provided by Sugar Snap

Led By Mandy Davis of the Intervale

Location: UHeights Multipurpose Room

The Intervale Farms Program in one of the greatest success stories in providing the resources and support for new and beginning farmers. Mandy will provide an overview of the program and application process, give examples of similar models around the country, and provide some suggestions for what you can do now to become a good candidate for an incubator program.

1:00-2:00pm- Panel: Working for and with Non-Profits

Panel facilitated by Dr. Deb Neher of the Plant and Soil Science Department

Location: Rowell Building in room 102

During this part of the day we will team up with the Plant and Soil Science senior seminar class to listen to a panel with reps from local agriculture and food related non-profits. The panelists will include Bobby Young of the Burlington School Food Project, Abbie Nelson of VT Feed, and more!

2:00-3:00pm- Reflection, next steps, and ICE CREAM

Location: Boulder Society Room (or somewhere outside!)

This will be a relaxed discussion and time for the youth to talk about any thoughts they might have on their mind. Some areas that should be covered are what the next steps are for this community and possible plans for gatherings during the summer and harvest months.

And to conclude the day, Slade Hall will sponsor a “Young Farmers Concert” that evening at 9pm to benefit the future gatherings and initiatives of this group of Vermont Greenhorns!

There are a limited number of spots for the Vermont Youth in Agriculture workshop due to space and the limited budget. Registration will be \$5 which will include coffee, the catered lunch by Sugar Snap, and ice cream! If this fee turns out to be a barrier for people, please let us know and we might be able to work something out.

Registration is on a first come, first serve basis! So sign up early!
Deadline for all registration forms is Friday April 3rd

If you have any questions about the Vermont Youth in Agriculture Workshops or the Vermont Food Summit, please feel free to email Common Ground at cgsref@uvm.edu or by phone at 802-233-5297.

A very special thanks to the Women’s Agricultural Network, the Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Intervale Farms, Common Ground Student Farm, NOFA-VT, CALS Reps, the Plant and Soil Science Department, and all of the presenters for their support!