



THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
Cooperative Extension
@URI



EXPLORING THE SMALL FARM DREAM:

Is Starting an Agricultural Business Right for You?

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this **four-session course**, you will set personal and farming goals, assess available resources, determine if farming *as a business* is right for you, and develop an action plan to guide next steps. Along the way you will take a close look at the realities of working for yourself, in particular what it will take to own and manage a successful agricultural venture.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

If you are thinking about starting an agricultural business, this course is designed for you. This includes people thinking about full-time farming, farming part-time while continuing other employment, changing careers to start a farm, taking over an existing family farm business, and/or developing an existing but informal agricultural pastime into a more serious business activity. *Established farmers who are re-strategizing their businesses have also benefited from the course.*

TO APPLY BY FEBRUARY 5, 2010:

Contact Kristen Castrataro at:
401-874-2967 or kcas@uri.edu.

DATES:

The class will meet 6-9pm on:
February 23, 2010
March 2, 2010
March 16, 2010
March 23, 2010

LOCATION:

Building #75, East Farm
University of Rhode Island
Route 108, Kingston, RI 02881

COST:

\$275 per potential farm business (maximum of two participants per business). Fee includes one workbook, additional handout materials, and light snack. Participants may bring bag dinner if needed.

CLASS SIZE:

Limited to 20 individuals. (2 partners per potential business may register.)

COURSE SPONSORS:

URI Cooperative Extension &
Department of Plant Sciences
GWE Consulting
Northeast SARE
RI Association of Conservation
Districts
RI Farm Bureau
RI Forest Consortium
RI Small Business Development
Center

URI provides equal program opportunity. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact us prior this event.

Exploring the Small Farm Dream was created by the New England Small Farm Institute

EXPLORING THE SMALL FARM DREAM: COURSE REGISTRATION

Date: Feb/Mar 2010 **Time:** 6-9 pm **Location:** Bldg. 75, East Farm, URI, Kingston, RI 02881

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ .
(\$275/potential business, includes 1 workbook. Each additional workbook \$30.)

Please make check payable to: *URI Foundation*. Please write "Explorer" on the memo line.
Thank you.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Information about *Explorer* course participants helps us make improvements to future *Explorer* workbook editions. *It will remain strictly confidential.* Items marked (*) are provided to the *Explorer* Program in summary form. Thank you.

Name(s):
Name of Enterprise (if any):
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Please: _____ place my/our name on the *Explorer* mailing list.
 _____ **do not** place my/our name on the *Explorer* mailing list.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION* (optional)

Gender(s):	Female:	Ethnic Background (Check all that apply.):	African American:
	Male:		Asian American:
Age(s):	Caucasian:		
Optimal time for workshops (Please write the months you prefer.):	Hispanic:		
	Native American:		
	Other (specify):		

YOUR CURRENT FARMING STAGE* (required)

(Check the one that best describes you.)

	I/we are <i>thinking about</i> starting a small farm business.
	I/we are <i>actively planning</i> to start a small farm business within the next year or two.
	I/we are <i>currently running a small farm business and are in the process of re-strategizing</i> .
	Other (please describe):

YOUR FARMING & BUSINESS BACKGROUND* (required)

Describe your agricultural experience, if any.

Have you ever been self-employed? If yes, describe.

Describe your business and/or management experience, if any.

What are your previous occupations?

Describe your educational background.

YOUR CURRENT LAND RESOURCES* (required)

Do you currently have access to land?

Yes. (Complete this section.)

No. (Go on to the next section.)

Describe the general location and acreage of your available land.

Describe your form of land tenure (i.e. own, lease, rent, other).

YOUR CURRENT SMALL FARM BUSINESS IDEA* (required)

Briefly describe (1) your *business idea (small farm dream)*, including proposed enterprise(s) (e.g., vegetables, beef, educational programs), marketing strategy(ies) (e.g., farm stand, farmers' market, CSA, sell to supermarkets), and *desired location*, or (2) if you are currently farming, your *current enterprise*.

YOUR EXPLORER GOALS* (required)

Please describe what you hope to gain from taking the *Explorer* course.