Our Impact - At a Glance

262,220 have learned how to breed pigs, transplant seedlings, and other high quality production techniques in our ‘Farming-in-Action’ Video Collection

32,442 have viewed our ‘Guide to Farming in NY’ and other ‘How-to’ Publications

28,760 have taken our Self-guided Tutorials on starting a farm business in the Plan Your Farm Hub

1,300 have learned how to produce berries, poultry, mushrooms & more through our Online Courses

143 have attended our Beginning Farmer Service Provider Trainings to build knowledge and skills to better support new and beginning farmers

Our Audience

Our focus is the NYS small farm sector, but our online resources have attracted attention from farmers in all 50 states and over 60 countries!

We serve a diverse audience
We’ve seen a 125% increase in diverse subscribers to our Small Farms eNewsletter since 2011!

Small Farms Program Staff

Anusuya Rangarajan Director
Violet Stone Program Coordinator
Erica Frenay Online Course Manager
Ryan Maher Professional Development Coordinator
Matthew Weiss Beginning Farmer Project Coordinator
Stephen Gabriel Agroforestry Specialist
Kathi Colen Peck Local & Regional Food Systems Coordinator
Tara Hammonds Student Assistant
Carli Fraccaroli Student Assistant

Fostering the Sustainability of Diverse, Thriving Small Farms in NY and beyond...

Since 2002, the Cornell Small Farms Program (CSFP) has been a visionary leader in fostering programs that support and encourage the sustainability of diverse, thriving small farms. We envision a future where vibrant rural and urban farms build human capacity, revitalize communities, supply regional food systems, and foster ecological resilience in a changing world. Small farms, by USDA definition, have an annual gross income of less than $350,000 per year and the majority of the farm labor comes from a family or partnership team. Over 90% of all farms in NY and nationally fall into this category.

The Program is housed within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) on the Cornell University Campus in Ithaca, NY. Program staff work collaboratively with a network of CALS faculty and staff, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators and other small farm advocates throughout New York to generate innovative research and extension initiatives that enhance small farm viability.
Supporting Veterans in Agriculture
This project supports military veterans interested in starting farms in the Northeast. The project includes regional discussion groups, video profiles, mentor-led on-farm trainings, a statewide support network, and week-long trainings on agriculture business planning & entrepreneurship.
nebeginningfarmers.org/projects/farmer-veterans/

Baskets to Pallets: Preparing Farmers to Enter Food Hubs, Groceries, Cooperatives and Restaurants
The newly developed “Baskets to Pallets” Teaching Curriculum features 18 hours of instruction an Educator can adapt to prepare small and mid-scale farmers to enter a food hub, grocery, cooperative or restaurant. Trainings for farmers and educators will be offered in 2016 and 2017. Learn more at smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/wholesale

‘Learn to Farm’ Online Courses
From growing berries to getting farm finances in order, our catalogue of 17 interactive 6-week courses connect farmers to the information and people needed to operate a successful farm business. The courses, which are led by agricultural educators and farmers, target a range of experience levels. nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses

‘Farming-in-Action’ Videos
The ‘Farming-in-Action’ Video Series provides footage of high-quality production practices used on successful farms. The ‘Getting Started In Farming’ Collection provides guidance on financing the farm, marketing, profitability, & more, to help aspiring and new farmers think about how to approach farm start-up. nebeginningsfarmers.org/videos

‘Plan Your Farm’ Hub
The Plan Your Farm Hub offers self-guided tutorials that walk a beginning farmer through goal setting, finding & evaluating land, planning & funding a farm business, choosing what to produce, developing a marketing strategy & more! The series of completed worksheets creates the foundation for a business plan. nebeginningsfarmers.org/farmers

Small Farms Online
Our website contains a wealth of small farm resources, including production information, business planning resources, an events calendar, how-to videos and webinars, and publications. smallfarms.cornell.edu

Small Farm Quarterly
The Small Farm Quarterly magazine, compiled by the Small Farms Program and published by Countryfolks, reaches 17,000 households across the Northeast region. Subscription info is available at smallfarms.cornell.edu/quarterly

Small Farms E-news Updates
Our Small Farms Update announces statewide events, funding & career opportunities, and the latest tools and resources for farm success. Sign up online at smallfarms.cornell.edu

Small Farm Guides
Need to know how to produce food in an urban area? How to properly kill and prepare a poultry carcass for sale? Looking for university and extension research that is applicable to your small farm? Our wide selection of “How-to” Guides tell you everything you need to know! Visit smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources

Our Audience Says...
“i have to compliment you on producing information events that are truly relevant to the small farms. Please keep up the good work and I will stay connected to your newsletter”
--Roberta Gillot, Crooked Mile Cheese

“You are doing a great job! We are working closely with a nearby agricultural college -- I use the concept of the Cornell Small Farms Program as a great example of how research can be transferred into hands-on knowledge for family farms.”
--Frank van der Hulst, Beginning Farmer

“Thank you very much for the terrific resources! As a beginning livestock farmer, the On-Farm Poultry Slaughter Guidelines and Guide to Direct Marketing Livestock were particularly helpful. They could not have come at a better time in the development of my business.”
--Hilary Corsum, DogWood farm