MDAR
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural Business Planning Courses

MDAR offers two courses for participants who are either 1) thinking about farming or 2) already operating an agricultural enterprise undergoing growth or change. Our courses are not offered online - participants find most benefit as part of a guided peer group sharing ideas over several weeks. Attendance is required at all sessions. Fees are kept low through MDAR financial support, and a farming partner may attend at no additional cost, as space allows. Applications are accepted on a first come first serve basis and then course dates and locations are scheduled based on interest.

Exploring The Small Farm Dream - For those who are thinking about getting into farming or in the planning stages of a new farm, including those who are expanding a hobby to an income-generating scale. This course offers guidance and feedback to help make informed decisions about what's involved with owning your own farm so you can decide whether or not to take the plunge - and how to proceed in the first stages. Five sessions offered on weekday evenings. Cost per enterprise - $100

Tilling the Soil of Opportunity – For those already operating a commercial, income generating agricultural enterprise and in need of a comprehensive business plan. This in-depth course offers a chance to assess, regroup, plan ahead, finance expansion, or clarify transfer/succession. The course draws on peer experience, instructor knowledge and guest speakers. Meets USDA/FSA certification for "Borrower Training". Graduates may qualify for individual post-course technical assistance. Ten sessions over 11 weeks. Cost per enterprise - $200.

To access a course application, go to the ABTP website: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/land-use/agricultural-business-training-program-abtp.html

For more information or to submit an application:
Contact Melissa Adams at Melissa.L.Adams@state.ma.us *or 413-548-1904*
Applications accepted on a rolling basis until a course is filled (no payment is due until dates/location are set).