

# Get Growing: A Self-Assessment for Aspiring Farmers and Farmers in Search of Land

Please complete the following assessment to assist you in determining the appropriate place to plug into regional training opportunities.

**\*\*If you answer NO to two or more of the questions in each step, consider the suggested opportunities. \*\*If you answer YES to two or more in each step, proceed to the next step**

Step 1: Aspiring Farmer		Yes	No
I have attended at least one conference or workshop dealing with agricultural production and/or farm business planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have grown crops or raised livestock on a home/homestead scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have participated in a work related activity on a working farm in the last two years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

  

Step 2: In-training Farmer		Yes	No
I have explored several different farming enterprises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have apprenticed/worked on one or more farms in the last five years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have explored the idea and components of operating my own farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I feel I am ready for an intense, long-term farm planning course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

  

Step 3: Start-up farmer		Yes	No
I have explored how to make farming a career or a way to generate supplemental income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have a farm business plan and have worked with my small business center or similar office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have saved up money for lease expenses and farm start up costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I am well connected to my local established agricultural community and/or know about land access options in the area where I plan to farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

  

Step 4: Seasoned farmer		Yes
I have completed an intensive farm production or business training or have equivalent experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I am interested in further support to make my farm business more successful	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have the experience and knowledge to run my business and need help with finding land to farm solo or in a cooperative model	<input type="checkbox"/>	

  

**Starting your learning journey**

Field days/ Farm Tours/ Skill Sessions  
Conferences/Workshops

Find a farm near you to work on in some capacity  
Practice growing where you live

*Talk with Extension and other organizations to see what conferences and workshops are available*

  

**On-farm trainings and beginning farmer resources**

Work Exchanges/Internships/Farm Employment  
Field days/ Skill Sessions/Farm Tours  
Conferences and Workshops

*Find on-farm work through NC FarmLink, through your local Extension office, online sites and directly through farms*

  

**Business and production resources**

Farm Business Intensive courses  
Mentorship connections or farmer network

Speaking with the FSA and local Farm Credits about leasing and purchasing processes and availabilities  
On-farm field days and workshops

*Ask your local Extension office about farmer intensive courses near you and local farmer mentors and classes*

  

**Technical Assistance and Operation Pairing**

Personalized production, marketing and financing assistance/Address land access and management/Mentorship

*Contact NC FarmLink and create a profile on our database, Contact your local Extension Agent, connect with local land trusts and other service providers to help with land access and fine-tune your business plan and production for success*