



Hawthorne Valley Farm Learning Center

Summer 2009

Dear Applicant,

We at Hawthorne Valley Farm Learning Center are excited about a new program that we will be offering beginning in October 2009, called **Hudson Valley Farm Beginnings®**. This program will include nine classroom sessions in on-farm goal setting, strategic and business planning, marketing, and financial management, for those interested in developing or expanding farming enterprises. Hudson Valley Farm Beginnings is farmer led and farmer taught so participants will gain access to many local and regional farmer-mentor colleagues during the classroom sessions and during four additional field days at local, sustainably managed farms. After completing a fully articulated and written business plan, participants will be able to have the plan reviewed by a farmer-mentor of their choosing.

Hudson Valley Farm Beginnings is based on curricula developed by the Land Stewardship Project and Angelic Organic's Learning Center, programs which have graduated over 500 farm entrepreneurs in past years. Through this course we hope to bring apprentices, new farmers, current landowners and future farm entrepreneurs together to help them all work toward making their agricultural dreams a reality.

Enclosed you will find a Farm Beginnings brochure which includes enrollment information and program deadlines, a summary of the class sessions and an application form. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions which we can answer. We are excited about this opportunity to reach out and help those who are most interested in preserving and growing the future of farming!

Sincerely,

Rachel Schneider

Educational Programs Director
Hawthorne Valley Farm Learning Center