



Connecting Rhode Island Farms and Communities

Long term goal: help more socially disadvantaged, beginning farmers in Rhode Island to jumpstart their farms on larger, rural sites and contribute in a more meaningful way to the local food economy in urban, economically challenged neighborhoods of South Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls.



Project Co-Directors: Margaret DeVos, Chandelle Wilson

Objectives:

Offer access to land, farmer infield training and farm support services to improve production methods at 3 rural sites currently in operation plus an additional 2 sites over the term of the grant. 16 farmers will begin farming. 160 farmers will report greater farming success. 25 farmers will implement new climate smart production methods.

Provide training and technical assistance to help farmers develop business skills including tax filings, record keeping, understanding and obtaining business registrations, insurance and licenses as needed. 25 farmers will report increased understanding of regulatory requirements and 8 will take action to engage with or align with regulations. 12 farmers will understand how to file a Schedule F tax return and 10 will decide to file a Schedule F.

Assist farmers with marketing including developing marketing plans and interacting with SCLT's Farm to Market Center, the Good Earth Farm Stand, and other wholesale outlets. 40 farmers will increase revenues.

Support farmer networking and peer-to-peer learning. 40 farmers will report that peer networking benefitted their farm business.