Beginning Farm and Ranch Management Apprenticeship Program

The Beginning Farm & Ranch Management Apprenticeship, a program of the Center for Land-Based Learning, is the first state-registered apprenticeship in agriculture in Northern California.

The Beginning Farm and Ranch Management Apprenticeship, a program of the Center for Land-Based Learning, trains individuals for farm management jobs by providing practical experience, valuable skills, connections to farmer mentors, and an industry-recognized credential.

Apprentices complete 3,000 hours of paid, on-the-job training by working on a production farm with a farmer mentor. They receive training in 8 different competency areas in order to gain a diverse set of skills on the farm. Apprentices also complete 250 hours of coursework to support their on-farm learning.

The Apprenticeship Program connects aspiring farm managers with established farmers who provide a space and opportunity to develop and practice the skills needed to manage a successful farming operation. The Beginning Farm and Ranch Management Apprenticeship Program is a formal apprenticeship registered with the California Department of Apprenticeship Standards that combines paid on-the-job training with job-related instruction.

The program lasts approximately two years, and upon completion of the Program, the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards graduates apprentices to a Journeyman level in the occupation of a Beginning Farm and Ranch Manager. While becoming a farm manager takes many years of experience, this Program provides a foundation of knowledge and skills that will help apprentices gain a foothold in the industry and advance their farming careers.

Supporting Veteran Apprentices

The Beginning Farm and Ranch Management Apprenticeship Program is dedicated to supporting veterans as they transition to careers in farm and ranch management. The Program has partnered with the Farmer Veteran Coalition to recruit and support veterans participating in the program. The Farmer Veteran Coalition provides one-on-one support and services to veteran apprentices.

The Beginning Farm and Ranch Management Apprenticeship Program is a Veterans Administration-approved training program, meaning eligible veterans may access VA benefits, such as housing allowance funds, under VA educational assistance programs such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, to supplement their apprenticeship wages.

Learn More

To learn more about the CFA Apprenticeship Program, please visit our website: landbasedlearning.org/farm-academy-apprentice or contact us at apprenticeship@landbasedlearning.org or (530) 795-4146.