



2021 Sierra Harvest Agriculture Skills Course

A season of hands-on learning for beginning farmers
www.sierraharvest.org/farmers

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<p>Class 1 Tuesday June 29th 4-6:00PM</p>	<p>Starting a Farm with Peter Hidalgo, Son of Something Farm Starting a farm is no easy task and can feel overwhelming. Join Peter Hidalgo for a conversation on how to turn your farm or ranch dream into a reality. Discuss which steps to take first and how to focus your time and energy for the highest impact. Son of Something farm is an intensive vegetable farm on 4 acres along the Bear River that produces a wide-array of specialty vegetables.</p>
<p>Class 2 Tuesday July 6th 4-6:00PM</p>	<p>Identifying Pests, Beneficial Insects and Management Options with Cindy Fake, UCCE Horticulture & Small Farms Advisor @ The Food Love Farm Learn to identify the various pest and beneficial creatures that impact agriculture in Nevada County. An in-depth conversation on Integrated Pest Management will cover methods of working within ecosystems to prevent pest damage and attract beneficial species. Cindy Fake has supported farmers in Placer and Nevada counties for over 20 years and is an expert on crop production in the foothills.</p>
<p>Class 3 Tuesday July 13th 4-6:00PM</p>	<p>Understanding & Improving Foothill Soils with Cindy Fake, UCCE Horticulture & Small Farms Advisor @ The Food Love Farm Learn about foothill soils, how to determine your soil texture by feel; the importance of soil analysis and how to take soil samples; the amazing properties of soil organic matter, and how to increase and maintain soil organic matter in the foothill climate. Cindy Fake has supported farmers in Placer and Nevada counties for over 20 years and is an expert on crop production in the foothills.</p>
<p>Class 4 Tuesday July 20th 4-6:00PM</p>	<p>Crop Planning with Antonio Garza, Feeding Crane Farm The foundation of every farm is a great crop plan. Learn to plan your season and extend your harvest window with well-timed crop successions and thoughtful plant rotations. Antonio Garza has farmed organically for over 10 years and was formerly the farm manager of Riverhill Farm. His new farm, Feeding Crane Farm, grows a wide array of certified Organic vegetables for local markets on 12 acres in Penn Valley.</p>
<p>Class 5 Tuesday July 27th 4-6:00PM</p>	<p>Soil and Field Preparation with Jeremy Mineau, Super Tuber Farm Learn to identify the right time and the best methods for preparing your fields for planting including choosing the right primary & secondary tillage methods and tools, applying amendments, and shaping beds. Properly prepping your fields can mitigate weed pressure and promote crop success. Jeremy Mineau of Super Tuber Farm will share his skills and knowledge of field-scale farming. He grows a variety of crops for the wholesale market on 10 acres in Chicago Park.</p>
<p>Class 6 Tuesday August 3rd 4-6:00PM</p>	<p>Low-Till, Intensive Farming with Leo Chapman, Chapman Family Farm See a small, diversified farm in action. Leo will introduce us to a farm system that integrates animals into a low-till fruit and vegetable system that includes Hugelkultur, swales, and perennials. If it can be grown in Nevada County, Leo has grown it! Leo co-founded the Living Lands Agrarian Network and as a true local agricultural hero, has much wisdom to offer.</p>

Class 7 Tuesday August 10th 4-6:00PM	All About Flowers with Deena Miller Sweet Roots Farm Learn all about cut flower production working backwards from sales outlets, to floral recipes, to crop planning for flowers all summer long. Learn how to achieve a long vase life, choice flower varieties, how to gain efficiency and speed with harvest and arranging, and of course, pricing! Sweet Roots Farm is a 3-acre, certified Organic farm in Grass Valley, CA, dedicated to growing flowers, food and plant starts with sustainable practices.
Tuesday August 17th 4-6:00PM	NO CLASS
Class 8 Tuesday August 24th 4-6:00PM	In the Field: Planting, Irrigating & Cultivating with Michael & Shanon Whamond, Hillview Farms Building efficiency into small, diverse & dynamic farming systems is a challenge. Join the great farmers at Hillview farm for a close look at field-scale systems of planting, irrigation, weeding, and more who farm in a low tillage system. Hillview Farms grows a diversity of certified Organic vegetables on 3-acres in Lincoln, CA and believes that “healthy soils = healthy families = healthy communities!”
Class 9 Wednesday Sept 1st 4-6:00PM	Harvest, Wash & Pack with Patrick and Diane Bollinger, Foothill Roots Farm Learn great post-harvest handling of vegetable crops to improve the quality and safety of farm produce. Learn what farmers can do to maximize the quality, freshness, and shelf life of farm harvests including harvest tips, packing shed design, cold storage, and packaging. Foothill Roots Farm grows fruits, vegetables and flowers for a CSA and weekly farmstand on 7 beautiful acres in Meadow Vista, CA.
Class 10 Tuesday Sept 7th 4-6:00PM	Soil Occultation & Season Extension with Bryanna & Steven Eisenhut, Stone’s Throw Farm Join Bryanna and Steven and explore soil occultation- the use of silage tarps to aid in low-till bed preparation. Occultation supports the biology of the soil to incorporate crop residues, suppress weeds, and enhance the tilth of the soil! This class will also cover techniques to extend the growing season into the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Stone’s Throw Farm grows certified Organic veggies and flowers on a vibrant piece of land in Colfax, CA.
Class 11 Tuesday Sept 14 th 4-6:00PM	How to Grow Stuff & Keep It Real with Ken Barrett, Starbright Acres Family Farm Join Ken for a tour of his Rough & Ready site where this year he is rotating in cucurbits and nightshades. Starbright Acres Farm produces over 30 types and hundreds of varieties of certified Organic vegetables and garden starts on one acre in Grass Valley and 5 leased acres in Nevada City and Rough & Ready. Learn about tried and true growing techniques and annual trials of new ideas. Ken will talk about exponential growth, farming multiple sites and how to make a living farming without getting discouraged by unmet visions of perfection.
Class 12 Tuesday Sept 21st 4-6:00PM	Successful CSA’s with Jake Benedict, Mountain Bounty Farm Learn strategies for success with Community Supported Agriculture programs. For the past 10 years, Jake has managed crop production for Mountain Bounty Farm’s CSA program on 18 acres in North San Juan. At over 800 produce boxes a week and deliveries from Penn Valley to Reno, this CSA is a model of how a farm can directly feed a regional community.
Class 13 Tuesday Sept 28th 4-6:00PM	Farm Scale Composting with Marney Blair & Lisa Bjorn, Fulcrum Farm Learn from the best compost makers in the land! Fulcrum Farm’s famous compost is the highest quality and most alive compost available. Lisa and Marney will share the basics of Biodynamics and explain the secrets of creating high quality compost on a large scale. Visit the compost yard, tour their Biodynamic farm and cow dairy. Fulcrum farm has been developing their Biodynamic & Organically certified 60-acre farm for the past 18 years.