

2012 Season Farm(er) Application

Duluth Community Farm

The *Duluth Community Farm (DCF)* is a community based and sustainably developed social enterprise devoted to production, demonstration, and education around food, farming and gardening. The mission of the DCF is a beginning and early-career farmer incubator for defined use of DCF lands. DCF may also host plots by enterprise farmers and organizational farmer-gardeners. For further information visit www.duluthcommunityfarm.org. For a model of the DCF goal, visit www.intervale.org

DCF land is 20 acres located on the NW corner of Riley and Jean Duluth Roads north of Duluth, of which approximately 14 acres is arable. The majority of the acreage had been tilled within the last 6 years. In 2011, DCF engaged our first tenant, Seeds of Success, on a .6 plot. In the Fall 2011, DCF land was 'brush hogged' and approximately 2.5 acres were tilled and cover cropped with winter rye in preparation for summer 2012 farm(er)s. Approximately, 15 yards of horse manure is in place and will be spread in the spring, 2012.

There is an irrigation pond from which water can be pumped for gravity irrigation. There is currently no electricity and any running and/or potable water. In summer 2012 a small shared tool shed and farmers' market stand will be available for use by DCF farm(er)s. DCF will provide an experienced farmer 'mentor' to DCF farm(er)s (and potentially establish a formal relationship with the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) for farm(er)s to participate in their 'Organic University' and conference on February 23-25, 2012). DCF will facilitate access to but cannot yet cover cost(s) of irrigation materials, fencing, tractor, implements, etc. Non-financial assistance provided for marketing via farmers market and deliveries to institutions may also be available if desired. DCF will assist in connecting DCF farm(er)s up with relevant networks of growers, sources for seedlings, and other relevant knowledge and materials useful in creating a successful experience for farm(er)s.

Farm(er) Qualifications:

- Self-motivated/directed person(s) with demonstrated experience in market gardening/ farming.
- Ability to perform the strenuous labor of farming in all weather as necessary.
- Ability to engage with public and volunteers.
- Ability to develop a farm business plan and keep farm records.
- Ability to work hours and days as needed throughout 2012 for a successful farm season.
- Provide own transportation to and from DCF.
- Encouraged but not required: Farm Beginnings or equivalent new farmer training program.

Farm(er) Duties: Each farm on DCF, will be an independent entity and will to develop an enterprise plan & budget, keep farm records, order supplies, start food crop seeds, control weeds, establish cover crops, build the soil, erect fencing, planting, irrigation, harvest, marketing, deliveries, coordinate with other DCF farm(er)s and designated DCF steering committee representatives, maintain farm and equipment in neat, workman like manner, engage positively with public, volunteers, and other DCF farms. First year will entail much weed control, soil building, and set up of infrastructure and systems. There is significant deer and crow pressure.

Rent: Farmer(s) will be required to sign a lease with DCF, with 25% of gross farm sales paid to DCF. Farm(er)s will be responsible for their own product liability & other liability insurance, health insurance, and income tax reporting, all of which are required.

Farm Plots: Plot sizes of up to one acre are available, although we encourage smaller plots for less experienced growers. Preferred (but not required) production is specialty crops. Production will be in accordance with organic methods. Those farm(er)s invited to DCF will have space reserved at DCF for a three year time frame, provided provisions of lease, and farm(er) agreement are followed.

Application Process and Timeline: Limited space is available. **DCF will review applications beginning December 1st, 2012 and will continue to accept applications until all space is filled.** All successful applicants will advance to a second stage and will be required to provide an enterprise plan to a DCF farm committee. This step is intended to help successful applicants refine their plans to ensure success. This process also provides successful applicants a process to understand potential deficiencies in their plans and/or finances and the ability to withdraw their application, should they desire. The goal of DCF is to help beginning farmers succeed.

Application Requirements:

Make sure to include:

- **Resume**
- **References**
- **Names of All Farmers**
- **Business Name, if applicable**
- **Contact Person**
 - **Name:**
 - **Address:**
 - **Daytime Phone:**
 - **Evening/Weekend Phone:**
 - **Email:**
- **Type of Business:**
 1. Please describe the farm you wish to establish in the Duluth Community Farm. Tell us what crop(s), live goods or livestock you plan to grow, approximately what size you think your farm will be, etc.:
 2. Why do you think your products will sell?
 3. Tell us about your experience farming.
 4. If you're accepted as a Farmer, how do you see your farm in three to five years?
 5. Is there anything else you think we should know about you at this juncture?

Once reviewed successful applicants will be invited to submit an enterprise plan. For more information call DCF at 218-525-7806. Send application by email to info@duluthcommunityfarm.org or via mail to DCF 8 N. 2nd Ave. E. Suite 200, Duluth, MN 55802