

# Educational Enhancement Projects:

## Years 2014-2015

Educational Enhancement Projects identify gaps in beginning farmer and rancher training and develop and conduct train-the-trainer projects to address those gaps. Thus they enhance funded and non-funded beginning farmer and rancher education programs by training and supporting those who themselves train and support beginning farmers and ranchers. Three Educational Enhancement Projects that are currently underway are described here. See also [Educational Enhancement Projects: Years 2009-2012](#) for brief descriptions of five completed projects.

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### ***FARMLAND FOR THE NEXT GENERATION: TRAINING THE TRAINERS TO HELP BEGINNERS SECURE LAND AND SUCCEED IN AGRICULTURE***

American Farmland Trust and its partners designed this project to help beginning farmers and ranchers nationwide secure land from retiring farmers and ranchers as well as institutional and non-operating landowners. They are evaluating existing curricula and resources, and then creating a comprehensive curriculum that meets the needs of diverse populations, regions, and agricultural systems. They will test and validate the curriculum by delivering it to 25 experienced agricultural educators, piloting the curriculum with beginning farmers and ranchers, and ultimately extending the training to other trainers. They will sustain the knowledge by laying the foundation for a national network of service providers and making the curriculum and resources widely available. Project Director: Julia Freedgood, American Farmland Trust, [jfreedgood \[at\] farmland.org](mailto:jfreedgood@farmland.org).

### ***21ST CENTURY MANAGEMENT: ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR BEGINNING WOMEN FARMERS***

This project is coordinating a national learning network to evaluate and enhance the sharing and use of curricula and materials for beginning farm and ranch women of all ages, ethnicity, and agricultural production interests. It focuses on subjects of special importance to beginning farm and ranch women: legal issues; business scale and profitability; farm safety, mechanization and ergonomics; land access, transfer and stewardship; and management. A virtual learning network will provide educators and agricultural technical assistance providers with evidence-based information regarding women's learning preferences, peer-reviewed training materials, evaluation tools, and mentoring from colleagues experienced in working with women farmers and ranchers. Project Director: Mary Peabody, University of Vermont, [mary.peabody \[at\] uvm.edu](mailto:mary.peabody@uvm.edu).

### ***EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND METHODS FOR BEGINNING REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT FARMERS***

In this project, two dozen collaborators that operate refugee and immigrant farming incubator projects are working together to improve their effectiveness in providing education, training and technical assistance to new refugee and immigrant beginning farmers. Support activities include webinars, online resources, team planning meetings, annual conferences, skills development trainings, and a Community of Practice to help everyone function as teams. Project Director: Hugh Joseph, ISED Solutions, [hughjoseph \[at\] comcast.net](mailto:hughjoseph@comcast.net).

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To view summaries and reports from these and other projects funded by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, click on "Read the Abstract" at <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>