



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

AgFS
Agriculture & Food Systems

Course Syllabus:

Maryland Beginning Farmer Success online course

Learning Outcomes

This class series is designed for people who are considering or in the beginning stages of starting a farm as a business.

The Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Course is a ten-week introduction to the foundational topics an aspiring farmer in Maryland should know. Topics covered will include business planning, marketing, crop production, livestock husbandry, soil health, pest management, food safety, and regulations and certifications. Additional elective resources will cover more specialized topics, such as organic production, urban agriculture, and direct marketing to local customers.

The course will be offered virtually, in a blended at-your-own-pace (asynchronous) and live (synchronous) format. At-your-own-pace lessons will be completed on the course page at eXtension.org Campus. Weekly live classes will be held every Thursday from Feb 10 through Apr 7, from 7 to 8:30pm.

By actively engaging in this program, participants will

- Understand each of the topics covered at a beginner's level, so they will be prepared to take more advanced trainings in future.
- Decide what they need to learn more about next to launch their farm business.

Class Location and Time:

At-your-own-pace lessons and assignments will be on eXtension.org Campus <https://campus.extension.org/>
See "How to access the class" section of syllabus

Each Thursday night, from 7 to 8:30 pm, we will have a live class.

The first and last class of the course (Feb 10 and April 7) will be in person, at one of several locations across the state of Maryland. See course update emails for the latest information about in person locations. An online alternative will be offered at the same time for students who cannot attend in person.

In weeks 2 through 8 (Feb 17 through Mar 31), the live class will be held online via the software Zoom.

Office Hours

By appointment with course organizers

Additional support available through free Entrepreneurial Coaching program:

<https://go.umd.edu/agcoach>

Prerequisites

None

Required Resources

e-mail access, internet access

Course communication

Please watch for emails from [ngliddle@umd.edu](mailto:nglittle@umd.edu) and for updates to the "Frequently Asked Questions" and "Course updates" parts of the course website.