

Small Farm Incubator Program 2017

The Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center (CSC) is excited to announce that it is now taking applications for its 2017 Small Farm Incubator Program. The Small Farm Incubator Program works to support young and beginning farmers by providing access to land, tools and equipment, pre-season land preparation, educational programming, and technical expertise. CSC's objective is to grow viable, independent farm businesses and to serve as a model new-farmer program by providing access to land and resources in a low-risk environment.

2017 Catawba Sustainability Center Growers' Rates

ITEM	ANNUAL FEE	UNIT
¼ Acre Land w/access to water for 1 growing season	\$50.00	¼ Acre
Equipment Fee: Usage and Maintenance	\$25.00	¼ Acre
Pre-Season Land Preparation: Tractor Disk*	\$50.00	¼ Acre
Total for All Services:	\$125.00	

*Optional: Land Preparation must be requested by April 14, 2017.

Requirements for New Farm Participation

1. Complete program application and associated paperwork and submit to CSC – Applications can be submitted year round, but at least 30 days before farming activities will begin. You may arrange a site visit at any time with CSC management.
2. Participate in a farming education program:
 - a. CSC Training Program
 - b. VA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Coalition Beginning Farmer modules
 - c. Other equivalent experience or training
3. Once accepted, you will be invoiced. Payment is due immediately upon receipt.
4. Pre-season land preparation will occur between April 1 and April 14, weather permitting.
5. Meet with CSC management at the Center for site orientation.
6. Submit a preseason garden plan to CSC management for approval. The plan should include planned crops (including varieties), plans for rotation, and cover crop scheme.
7. Farming can begin once payment is received, and can continue until December 1. For alternative arrangements, please contact CSC management.

For more information, or questions about the program, please contact Adam Taylor, CSC Manager, by email at adamht@vt.edu or by phone at (540) 588-0283.