



## **CALL FOR WORKSHOP AND PRESENTATION PROPOSALS**

The Young Farmers Conference: Reviving the Culture of Agriculture, December 2 – 3, 2010

*Hosted by: Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture, Pocantico Hills, NY*

**Proposal Period: July 23 – September 3. No proposals will be accepted after September 3**

This December, Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture will present its third annual *Young Farmers Conference: Reviving the Culture of Agriculture*, a program especially for young and new farmers. This year's event will be a forum for over 200 participants to learn from agricultural luminaries, peers, and advocacy organizations through workshops, keynotes, and panel discussions.

### **About the YFC**

Across the country, a movement is growing. Young and beginning farmers are eager to take up the lead and shape the vision for a healthy food system. They are energized by the complexities of the problems at hand and are ready to implement the solutions. The keys to their success are training and community – two things the Young Farmers Conference at Stone Barns Center is able to provide them with each December.

In both 2008 and 2009, registration for the YFC sold out quickly, with 130 attending the first year and 225 the second year. Over two days, participants have more than 40 workshops to choose from, ranging from technical and hands-on to policy, business, and marketing-related sessions. The YFC is a unique opportunity for these new and aspiring producers to learn from leading thinkers in the field and to connect with their peers from across the country. In addition to workshops, attendees have been inspired by past keynotes including Eliot Coleman, Fred Kirschenmann, and Wes Jackson. Because of the caliber of speakers and presenters at the YFC, time and again participants express how important this gathering is for them, and how much they look forward to next year.

### **Presentation Formats**

Workshop Sessions (can include a single presenter or panel discussion) are 75 – 90 minutes in length

### **Possible Topics (not limited to these alone)**

Farming next to nature (including wildlife habitats)  
Seed-saving  
Slaughter and butchering  
Work animals  
Breeding (seeds/livestock)  
Certification  
Farm-based education  
Interns, volunteers, apprentices  
Business planning/financial management  
Policy relating to young farmers  
Specialty crops or rare breeds  
Machinery maintenance  
Urban agriculture  
Food access  
Land access  
Fencing  
Livestock  
Bees/Beekeeping  
Value Added Products  
Distribution – Markets/CSA

## **Session Format**

Interactive sessions that provide opportunities for significant audience participation are encouraged. We encourage session organizers to include a diverse group of leaders, such as youth, farmers, and community members. Introductory and intermediate level workshops are both welcome.

## **Audience**

The YFC audience ranges from farmers in their first few seasons to city dwellers beginning to explore their dream of farming, and many who are in between.

## **Session Details**

Workshop sessions will be 75 – 90 minutes in length. Expect approximately 20–50 attendees per workshop.

## **Submission of Proposals and Deadlines**

Please submit your proposal to [nenaj@stonebarnscenter.org](mailto:nenaj@stonebarnscenter.org) by September 3, 2010.

## **Audio-Visual**

We will contact you regarding your AV needs if your session is chosen.

## **Registration Fees**

All presenters will receive conference registration and access to all YFC events. Presenters will also receive a modest honorarium for their workshop presentation.

## **Travel Costs**

Presenters should plan on covering their own travel costs to participate in the conference.

## **You'll Hear Back From Us Soon**

Proposals will be evaluated based on content and programming needs. Creative, interactive workshops with a clear take-home message for participants, e.g., specific resources or skills, preferred.

Submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of its acceptance. A planning committee will review all proposals. Notifications of your proposal's status will be provided in mid-September. Contact us if you don't hear back by then.

## **PROPOSAL FORMAT**

### **Workshops and Panels**

- Please provide the name, address, zip code, e-mail address and phone number for the primary presenter/organizer, and a short bio, no more than 50 words.
- Please provide the names, bios, and affiliations of other presenters.
- Please provide a title for your proposed session (no more than 10 words)
- Please provide a description of your session in no more than 150 words. Provide information regarding format of presentation—lecture, small group, panel, activity-based, and how speakers will engage participants attending the workshop.
- List 2-3 objectives describing how participants will benefit from this session and what tool(s) or message(s) participants will “take home.” Learning outcomes should be action statements describing what participants will be able to do as a result of the experience, usually defined in terms of knowledge, skills, or attitudes. Statements should complete the following phrase with observable and measurable verbs: “After this presentation, the attendee will be able to...”
- Describe desired audio-visual needs.

### **Skill Level of Presentation Content**

Conference attendees are typically looking for focused sessions that deliver new information or knowledge. Please state which level your session addresses:

- **Basic:** Assumes little or no prior knowledge of area(s) covered. The focus of the activity is to increase knowledge and application by the participant.
- **Intermediate:** Assumes a general knowledge of the area(s) covered. The focus is to enhance knowledge and application of the participant.