Frequently Asked Questions

Who is it for? For those who are interested in becoming a production farmer and want to learn and experience the technical and business fundamentals of successful farming in Hawaii.

What does it cost? Thanks to our sponsors, GoFarm Hawai‘i is currently offered without charge. In the future, each program phase will have a separate charge to cover program costs.

When is it offered? AgCurious, the first phase of the GoFarm Hawai‘i program, is offered approximately every six months. For more details, see www.gofarmhawaii.org/calendar.

Where is it held? Currently, GoFarm Hawai‘i training takes place at Windward Community College and CTAHR’s Waimanalo Agricultural Experiment Station. AgXposure is held at various farms around O‘ahu. In the future, additional sites are expected to be added throughout the state.

How do I sign up? Email info@gofarmhawaii.org and request to be added to the mailing list to be notified of upcoming rounds of classes. Attend the AgCurious seminar when it is offered, and apply for AgXposure. Rare exceptions may be made for entry directly into AgSchool.

So you want to be a farmer?

Farming can be a very rewarding pursuit: It can sustain your family and your community, give you independence, stimulate your mind, and feed your spirit.

It can, however, be very challenging: Disease, weather, and pests can disrupt well-laid plans; there is so much a farmer needs to know about soil health, different crops, nutrition, pest and disease control, marketing, and finances (to name a few) in order to be successful.

Do you think you have what it takes to do the hard work and learn the various aspects of farming? To meet the inevitable challenges with creativity and determination? Commit to Hawaii’s premier beginning farmer training program with the goal of becoming a successful farmer?

If so, then we’re ready to help you! And thank you for joining us in sustaining Hawaii’s future!
GoFarm Hawai`i

Our mission is to enhance Hawai`i’s food security and economy by increasing the number of local agricultural producers by offering those with an interest in agriculture a combination of knowledge, experience, and support designed to assist them in becoming viable production growers, and accomplish this in a manner that encourages sustainability.

Emphasis will be on the practical skills and knowledge necessary to become a successful agricultural entrepreneur, thus the curriculum will cover the fundamentals of farm production and business management, and expose participants to the realities of farming through the experience of seasoned farmers. Services such as shared equipment, land, marketing, and business consulting (including pursuit of financing and land matchmaking) will be provided to facilitate participants’ entry into commercial farming.

Program Phases

1. **AgCurious** (3 hour seminar)
   - Attract those with interest in getting involved in agricultural production.
   - Provide them with an overview of the industry in Hawai`i and its importance.
   - Convey a sense of what is involved in farming, both as a farmer and farm worker, including: challenges and opportunities, costs and benefits, and lifestyle.
   - Inform participants about various avenues to get started, but especially recruit those who want to know more about what it is like to be a farmer to the next phase (AgXposure).

2. **AgXposure** (5-6 Saturdays)
   - Provide participants with experiences that convey the lifestyle and knowledge areas important to farming to expose them to what life would be like if they were to be a farmer.
   - Recruit those who want to learn how to be a successful farmer and can make the necessary commitments to the next phase (AgSchool).

3. **AgSchool** (1 weekday & Saturdays for 9 months, additional time may be necessary to maintain crops)
   - Topics delivered by experts and specialists include: Soil nutrients and plant health management, Propagation, Variety selection, Farm equipment, Irrigation, Pest control (pathogens, insects, nematodes, and weeds), Post harvest storage and handling, Food Safety, Cost of Production, Crop and Business Planning, and Marketing.
   - Participants acquire a fundamental understanding of the principals underlying a broad spectrum of production topics.
   - Participants practice on-farm the techniques related to critical production skills.
   - Participants practice techniques related to business management topics.
   - Participants develop a business plan.
   - Participants learn of the resources available to assist them and/or further their knowledge of farming and business management.

4. **AgIncubator** (optional: up to 2 years)
   - Participants practice farming their chosen crop on land provided by the program for up to two years.
   - Mentorship and monthly deep-dive technical workshops.
   - Shared equipment and infrastructure.
   - Opportunity to market through the AgIncubator CSA.

5. **AgBusiness** (anytime after AgSchool)
   - Transition assistance to launch participants into viable agribusinesses.
   - Assistance finding and securing land and financing.
   - Business startup and planning consulting.