

# Edendell FarmSHARE Program

## Could you start a farm? Want to?

We hope so, because Edendell's FarmSHARE program is about putting new farmers into business. **We teach the craft and business of farming by sharing our farm to help people enter the growing business in a different way.**

## What is FarmSHARE?

FarmSHARE is a two year program. Year one concentrates on production, year two emphasizes farm business management and the marketplace. This is equal to four semesters to learn the craft of growing.

### Benefits:

- Learn the craft and business of farming on a local farm
- Use of all the supplies, tools, and equipment needed with training on how to use them
- Farm income in Year 2
- Access to the FarmSTART program
- Opportunity to be broker/distributor for neighborhood CSA members

## How does it work?

**Each year is divided into two growing seasons of 20 weeks each, spring and fall.** During the Spring growing season, FarmSHARE interns spend 12 Saturdays (out of the 20 weeks) on a working farm, learning the production aspects of farm operations and assisting in the actual cultivation and harvest of both field crops\*. Interns will be taught how to use and operate farming tools and equipment and will receive the same weekly allocation of harvested produce that Edendell customers receive.

During the Fall growing season, interns spend another 12 Saturdays not only cultivating and harvesting but also learning farm management techniques, including soil preparation, crop selection, planting schedule, field layout, and record keeping. Interns again receive harvested produce and a best practice manual summarizing what they learned.

\*note: weekday arrangements are available for select individuals and teams.

**In Year 2, the FarmSHARE interns, as a team, will be assigned a 2 acre plot of land to farm during both the Spring and Fall seasons.** The team will handle all aspects of production management, under supervision, and will be expected to produce enough on this 2 acres to supply 30 Edendell customers plus the interns' own clientele of an additional 30 CSA customers. Scheduling of workdays will be determined by the team in accordance with the cultivation and production schedule. Any harvested produce in excess of what is required to supply the 60 CSA customers will be marketed by Edendell through Farmers Markets and wholesale buyers. Interns will be expected to participate in this marketing activity to learn this aspect of the farming business.

## FarmSTART - The Third Year

50% of the revenue from the interns' 2 acres will be held in escrow until the end of Year 2, when the FarmSHARE interns graduate, and allocated as follows: half to a FarmSTART account, and half to a intern earnings account. Those interns who wish to continue farming under the Farmstart Co-op program will be assisted in locating acreage to purchase or lease to start their own operation, and will have use of the funds in their **FarmSTART Account.** Those interns who do not continue farming under the FarmSTART Co-op program will receive their share of the intern earnings account.

## Cost of the FarmSHARE Program:

**Year 1:** \$480 + 12 weekend workdays each season (24 total)

Payment Methods:

\$240 per semester; includes CSA seasonal portion of food

\$440 Full payment for the year

**Year 2:** \$440 + team workdays scheduled as necessary to manage 2 acres

Payment Methods:

\$480 Full payment for the year

## To Apply:

- 1. Call: Shaye Stevens (Business Manager)** at 512-663-3700
- 2. Complete application (mail)**

