

INCUBATOR FARMS:

Aim to assist new and beginning farmer entrepreneurs in establishing their own successful business. Incubator farms typically train on successful business tactics and provide resources and services that are typically expensive or difficult to come by for start-up entrepreneurs on their own. Many forms of incubator farms exist, but all rely on land-based areas for training, and include multiple-growers on site. Additionally, trainers and experts can be housed or consulted to teach various technical practices of farming.

Community Conclusions: During the decision making meeting, the coalition determined a priority project in collaboration with Sinsinawa Mound. This will involve the development of a collaborative farm that will assist low-resource individuals in finding access to land, business development skills, and farm management training. Additionally, the project will include the design and development of a branding campaign for the Collaborative Farm and a comprehensive master plan design.

Public Input Sessions:

- Convivium Urban Farmstead: Social, education, cooking, permaculture
- Sinsinawa Mound: It is important to foster and help young educated farmers. Help them learn how to acquire assets.
- Sinsinawa Mounds
- Galena, IL: We have farmland and want to add to the local community- Jo Davies Conservation Foundation
- Galena, IL: Need small business opportunities and access to local food. Vision 20/20 economic development group is looking for entrepreneurs

Interviews with topic:

Sinsiniwa Mounds/ Cuba City: Eric and Sheila/ Mark (Tree of Life Farm):

- 450 acres- woodlands and agricultural land- leased to organic dairy currently
- Current: summer gardening- doesn't supply need
- Have to re-educate selves and kitchen staff

How can we coordinate menu to what's coming from garden/

Current project ideas:

Have done two studies: 1- shared-use kitchen and collaborative farm; 2- analysis of food purchases and what we grow

Goals for Beginning Farmer Project:

- Currently collaborate with Extension offices- SW Badger RD&C, SW CAP (Community Action Project), regional Planning office, Grow SW Commission
- Trying to become a service base to community- designed with the mission
- Mark has 12 acres of vegetable production--Hope to have start with Mark as mentor-
- Could supply planning skills/ interpretive skills/ marketing etc.
- Interested in Farley Center/ working as a collaborative model vs. an incubator model
- Sinsiniwa could also be a purchaser of products grown on the land

Mentorship:

- Mark- bring in experts or field days for learning (farming/ hands-on/ other are teaching)
- Want to connect to the educational component and bring in spiritual base

- Going to train guys from Rescue Mission for training large purchase CSA to help with food purchases

Mark: goals

- Design that incorporates field/ packing/ circulation/ storage and housing
- Has a 5 acre farmstead with hoop and mushroom house- cover crop rotation and soil improvement plan
- In 2016 would like to have 2 sites in production and then distribut from farm
- Goal for all on Sinsiniwa and packing shed

Site development:

- 10 day meeting with sisters: very excited to open up land to public- and facilities
- Need for space is declining as a ministry - chapter has 200 people: land/ building/ mission (what's the future)
- For the future: want to be a place for people to have a "just relationship with the earth"
- Seed of Change grant: equipment
- Have farm buildings from dairy still available
- Concept planning process- including provision of housing
- Have a lot of freezer and cooler space
- Have a lot of group events- meal options/ overnight retreats