

News Release

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SCHOOL TO FARM INITIATIVE FEATURES NEW EDUCATION CENTER Schools Encouraged to Apply

Austin, TX, February 27, 2014 – New Farm Institute (NFI), Green Gate Farms' educational nonprofit organization, announces its new 2014 School-to-Farm initiative.

“After teaching sustainable, organic systems to hundreds of visiting students and guests each year, we are delighted to announce the expansion of our in-depth, on-farm experiential education programming,” says NFI executive director, Erin Flynn.

Kicking off the 2014 School-to Farm program is Austin Jewish Academy, which is using Green Gate Farms as a classroom every week for three months. Curriculum has been developed with the farm's educators and teacher Karen Hidalgo so that her fifth grade class blends science, math, sustainability, health, art and Judaic principles with the daily needs of the organic farm. Projects include helping to build the new Education Center and a student-designed mobile chicken coop to be unveiled during the Austin Funky Chicken Coop Tour. Students will conclude their farm experience with a “Ted Talk” event in the farm's hayloft.

NFI's School-to-Farm initiative builds upon existing partnerships with such schools as Austin High School, Magellan School, Austin Discovery School and the new Integrity Academy. Internships, service learning and capstone projects are tailored to each school so students make a lasting impact on the farm while having an opportunity to learn in an innovative, stimulating and outdoor setting.

The construction of a new Education Center is underway to accommodate more in-depth study at the farm. Volunteers, materials, donations and experienced fundraisers are needed to complete the transformation. Contact info@newfarminstitute.org for more information.

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March Events Include:

Farm Camp Registration Now OPEN! Sign your child up for a week or day of on-farm fun for Spring Break or summer, www.newfarminstitute.org

Family Farm Day(s), Spend the morning helping farmers care for the animals and plants with simple chores. March 8 & 22 (Saturday) 10am-12pm, \$10 per person, sliding scale available.

Spring Break Farm Camp, March 10-14, 9-3. Campers, ages 5-15, get to be farmers: feeding animals, working in field, and participating in farm activities. \$350 per child, discounts for siblings. Pre/after care available.

Green Gate Farm Spring CSA Begins Join our spring/summer CSA share and receive discounts on all NFI programs, including camps. Sign-up by March 7 to receive all 20 weeks of the season's bounty, \$20/per week for a half share and \$35/per week for a full share of delicious certified organic vegetables.

Spring Plant Sale and Free Farm Tour, March 22 (Saturday), 10pm-1pm. Certified organic plants for your spring garden. Bring a box to take home your bounty. Stay for a FREE farm tour, 12-1. (Unsold plants donated to our school partners).

Farm Clean-up Weekend, March 22 and 23 (Saturday + Sunday) 10-4: Join us as we ready our farm for its ninth year of welcoming the community to our sustainable, organic diversified urban farm. Spring clean-up includes: creating new paddocks for goats, siting tree houses, creating new compost piles and fire pit construction. Tasks for ages. Bring tools, if you have them. Helpers rewarded with vegetables, as available.

Save the Dates:

Farm Tour/Picnic, National Farm to Cafeteria Conference Attendees, April 15
Funky Chicken Coop Tour, April 19, austincooptour.org

New Farm Institute's (NFI) mission is to educate, assist and inspire a new generation of sustainable farmers in Central Texas. NFI's initiatives build upon the education and outreach efforts begun nine years ago by the founders of Green Gate Farms, a community-based, certified organic farm with locations in Austin and Bastrop, Texas. NFI, a 501(c)3, provides farm-based education including: camps, workshops, and the first Incubator Farm in Texas. See: www.newfarminstitute.org

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