



SPECIAL THANKS FOR A GREAT 2013!
New: Updates about staff, programs, and partnerships

Austin, TX, December 8, 2013 –

Two Fantastic Farm Educators on Staff

New Farm Institute has been fortunate to have the support of two educators who are passionate about introducing sustainable, organic practices to new audiences. We couldn't be happier that they are here:

Rachel Bialock comes to us most recently from New York City, although she is a native Texan. She has experience in education, service learning, and camps. She is passionate about local and sustainable food and is looking forward to expanding New Farm Institute's programs and creating new partnerships.

Nico Romo is from good ol' San Antonio, Texas. He left five years ago to study Biology in beautiful, Saint Petersburg, Florida. There is where he first experienced his love of vegetable cultivation and education. He returned to Texas to pursue his loves and found them both at Green Gate Farms. He love it here, and loves being a part of such a beautifully vibrant community!

Local Schools Partnering on In-Depth On-Farm Learning Programs

Over the years, we've hosted dozens of school field trips. Students get to taste the fields and forage; they learn about rarebreed livestock; they may even help with a few farm chores. Most importantly, we motivate them to get more involved with local food. Our goal is that our farm will be used for long-term, ongoing projects.

We are delighted that several schools are taking an active role in using our farm as a living classroom. Teachers and Green Educators from the following schools are developing on-farm curriculum and activities with us:

- Austin Discovery School
- Austin Jewish Academy
- Khabele School
- Magellan School

Please support their efforts. Funds are needed for transportation and materials (we'd love to get some microscopes).

More School Field Trips and Service Learning Projects

Many amazing schools, corporate groups, and children's groups have come out to the farm this year. We have had assistance in moving and restructuring our large pig pen, removal/clean-up of the old pavilion, new picnic table construction, and much more!

A BIG thank you to all of these groups, without your continued support the farm would not run as smoothly.

- Austin High School
- Many different Girl Scout Troupes



- Escoffie Culinary School
- Re-Design (table building thing)
- Dell
- Whole Foods

Add your group to our list for next year! Sign-up for a field trip or service project today. We pride ourselves in making meaningful and individualized experiences for each group that visits.

New Pavilion and Education Center Underway

This is an exciting time on our community-based farm. New plans are underway to increase the areas where visitors and campers can learn about sustainable, organic farming. In addition to a new outdoor pavilion (designed by Patrice Mallard Designs) beside the Big Red Barn, we're inviting all visitors to envision our new Education Center.

Our goal is to transform the north side of our farm into an interactive, independent learning center. Where children can explore and play and school visitors can garden and experience the farm.

You can help redesign our farm so we can provide more independent learning areas. Students from Khabele School have offered the following suggestions, including:

- Treehouse
- Aquaponics
- Areas to pet livestock
- Rabbitry
- Food Forest
- Vermaculture
- Raised garden beds

Joined Alternative School Initiative

Here in Austin the Alternative School Movement is really taking hold. Through Teri Sperry and the Alt Ed Austin website, we are busy making partnerships with many new and innovative schools. These schools have so much to offer a child, their non-traditional educational methods provide learning, development, and experiences that a regular classroom does not offer.

We are very excited about these partnerships because of our love of service learning, experiential education, and alternative methods. Each of these partnerships will be as unique as the schools. Look out for an official press release with more details in the future.

Expanded Partnership with Sustainable Food Center, "Meet A Farmer" Program

This fall we have partnered with Sustainable Food Center to provide many "Meet a Farmer" experiences for local elementary school children. The schools we have visited were all excited about tasting Kale Chips and bringing home their own kale. Students learned about Green Gate Farms animals and vegetables through pictures, tasting, and discussion. We are looking forward to doing more school visits with SFC and spreading the word about the importance of local organic food.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR DECEMBER 2013 GIVING DRIVE,
YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!



We are currently seeking interns to assist with fundraising, marketing, and social media. See the website for details.

December Events Include:

Family Farm Day, Help farmers feed the animals and do daily chores
December 14 (Saturday) 10am-12pm, \$10 per person, sliding scale available.

Monthly Farmer Forum: "Local Holidays" Gather round the firepit on the Full Moon to discuss local farming issues, December 17 (Tuesday), 6pm-8pm. \$5 per person, suggested donation.

Farmer For A Day Camp, Why spend your day off from school anywhere but the Farm?! Campers enjoy time feeding animals, working in field, and participating in fun on farm activities. December 23 (Monday) 9am-3pm, \$85 per child, sliding scale available.

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 eight years ago by the founders of Green Gate Farms, a community-based, certified organic farm with locations in Austin and Bastrop, Texas.

New Farm Institute, a 501(c)3, provides farm-based education including: camps, workshops, and the first Incubator Farm in Texas. Comprised of farmers, citizens and community activists, NFI is dedicated to engaging people of all ages and abilities in healthy foods and sustainable farming. See: www.newfarminstitute.org

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