

Email to Steve Swain (NAP) concerning “resourcED” and their “Harvest Crops” program

----- Forwarded message from kieraf@stonebarnscenter.org -----

Date: Thu, 16 Jul 2020 12:56:05 -0400

From: Kiera Foti <kieraf@stonebarnscenter.org>

Subject: Harvest Corps helps farmers

To: swainsj@purdue.edu

Hi Stephen,

Again, thank you for chatting with me and being willing to share this information!

As a re-introduction, I’m Kiera, I work at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in New York. We are reaching out to as many people as we can who might be able to share information about a program that will help farms nationwide with their upcoming fall season, and we’re hoping you might be able to share this information with farmers in your network.

In late March, Blue Hill and Stone Barns Center partnered to launch resourcED, a program to support the independent local food movement during the pandemic and beyond.

In response to the data collected in our Farmers Survey, resourcED initiated “Harvest Corps,” a program that links college students and unemployed hospitality professionals with farms experiencing labor deficits. We are fortunate that WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) and their vast network has joined us in this initiative. The program will run from mid-August to mid-October. Participants will be engaged in on-farm work based on operator’s needs; in exchange they will receive vibrant learning opportunities. The program will connect many participants with farms in the area in which they reside. When possible, participants will be connected with farms that provide room and board.

Education shapes the second half of the Harvest Corps mission. All participants will engage in remote Community Supported Learning designed and presented by resourcED team leaders. The curricular aspect of the program will enrich participants’ experiences and provide a deeper connection to how their work and education fit into the greater food system.

We hope that more farms will participate in this Harvest Corps opportunity. Peak season for many growers is fast approaching. We ask that you share this information and application to your community in order to help us engage farms across the country in this program:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VD5ByUh2wbQnlBOXHmFsp2K-i9tE5ygPltcvm9mJ698/viewform?edit_requested=true&fbzx=8782102012182471306

Here is how we word this program when we email farmers directly:

In late March Blue Hill and Stone Barns Center partnered to launch resourcED, a program to support the independent local food movement during the pandemic and beyond. Based on a survey of 500 farmers across the country, 48% of farmers reported that they’ll have fewer workers this season due to the effects of COVID-19.

In response, WWOOF-USA and Stone Barns Center's resourCED program are partnering to initiate Harvest Corps: a program that links unemployed hospitality professionals and college students with farms across the U.S.

The Harvest Corps program will run from mid-August to mid-October. The minimum length of participation for hospitality professionals will be 1 month, while other participants will be encouraged to remain at their host site for the duration of the program. The program will connect many participants with farms in the area in which they reside. When possible, participants will be connected with farms that provide room and board. Participants will assist in daily tasks (harvest, weeding, washing/packing, farmers market sales) based on the needs of the farmer for half of the day in exchange for hands-on training, vibrant learning opportunity, and in some cases, room and board.

Unemployed BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) cooks and chefs are invited to apply for a scholarship of \$1,200 per month to cover WWOOF membership fee, travel, insurance, and other expenses.

In addition to the half day of farm work, Harvest Corps participants will be actively engaged in remote Community Supported Learning created and presented by Stone Barns Center's resourCED team leaders. Meant to enrich their experience on the farm and provide a deeper connection to how their work fits into the greater food system, participants will endeavor to create a shared knowledge base and, ultimately, shared language around regenerative gastronomy and agriculture.

If you would like to participate as a host for the Harvest Corps program, please complete this application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VD5ByUh2wbQnlBOXHmFsp2K-i9tE5ygPltcvm9mJ698/viewform?edit_requested=true&fbzx=8782102012182471306

Thank you and let me know of any questions at all.

Best,

Kiera
Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

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