2019 Tricycle Urban Agriculture Fellowship

Offered in partnership with

Grow Food - Grow Change: Enter the Field of Urban Ag

Earn Certification in Urban Agriculture recognized by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

- 440+ hours of Hands-On Farm Experience on urban ag sites alongside Tricycle urban ag staff

- Learn the Business and Practice of Urban Agriculture

- Engage with Our Local Communities

- Network with Local Farmers & Subject Matter Experts

- Learn on the Farm and in the Classroom from Experts in the Field

March 4th - November 15th, 2019
20 hours a week
Full scholarships for tuition & fees for 2019 Cohort

Who Should Apply?
We are committed to cultivating a thriving local food ecosystem by increasing the number of urban farmers. Individuals serious about taking the next step toward running or managing an urban farm are given priority. However, we recognize the valuable contribution made by people who possess a passion for working toward a vibrant and sustainable local food ecosystem through their work in other areas of urban agriculture (edible landscaping for homes and businesses; homesteading and community gardening; local nurseries, farmers markets, and school and church gardens; food-as-infrastructure and food justice initiatives). We encourage all people who want to pursue a career in urban ag to apply.

The Fellowship is an intensive, hands-on program
Fellows work as members of a small, tight-knit team who work closely on the farm and in the classroom for eight+ months. They gain farming knowledge and experience by taking on responsibilities in every area of operating Tricycle’s urban ag sites. Well qualified applicants have strong interpersonal skills and are self-motivated with a can-do attitude. They are capable of lifting up to 40 lbs and excited to tackle rigorous farm work in all four seasons of the year. Some farming experience is preferred but not required.

Graduates Join the Certified Urban Agriculturalist Alumni Network

- Expand Network Connections
- Learn thru Ongoing Educational Opportunities
- Apply to Tricycle’s Incubator Farm Site
Curriculum for the Certification in Urban Ag

includes subjects that fall within four focus areas of study taught by instructors who are experts in their field, such as USDA-NRCS, Virginia Tech and Virginia State Cooperative Extension Agents, Practiced Farmers, Consultants, Tricycle Staff, and others doing the work of sustainable agriculture.

Urban Agroecology
soil, water, plants, insects & animals, people & community
- Soil Health Management for Urban Growers
- Organic Amendments, Composting
- Vermicomposting
- Soil Safety for the Urban Grower
- Water Conservation Methods
- Urban Water Management
- Seed Biology, Germination and Development
- Plant Nutrition & Nutrient Cycle
- Insect ID & Farming with Beneficials
- Integrating Urban Ag into Your Community
- Mapping and Exploring the Local Food System
- The Role of Nonprofit Organizations in Community

Sustainable Ag Skills & Practices
- Urban Farm Planning & Management
- Crop Planning
- Irrigation Principles & Practices
- Greenhouse Operations
- Season Extension with Hoop Houses and Row Covers
- Biological Plant Pathogen Management
- Weed & Pest Management in Organic Systems
- Harvesting, Processing and Marketing Techniques
- Produce Safety on the Farm
- Biointensive Farming
- Urban Farm Tools, Equipment, & Infrastructure

Agricultural Entrepreneurship
- Holistic Business Planning
- Writing a Business Plan with LivePlan
- Your Mission Driven Business
- Financing and Business Structure Options
- Record Keeping for Farm Profitability
- USDA Resources for Beginning Farmers
- NRCS Technical Assistance

Market Channels in Commercial Urban Ag
- Specialty Areas (Microgreens, Ginger, Turmeric, Flowers, Beekeeping, Native Plants, Mushrooms)
- Market Farms, Community Farms
- Agritourism and Value Added Products
Fellowship Schedule
The program runs from 9am - 1pm, Monday through Friday. Fellows spend 3 days a week on Tricycle’s urban ag sites putting into practice what they learn during classroom instruction, field trips and program rotations. Fellows learn to lead all aspects of daily operation of the farm— from bed prep, planting, weeding, compost making and greenhouse management to harvesting and selling at market. Fellows gain additional leadership experience by taking the lead during volunteer workdays, educational tours and community events.

Individual Learning Plans & Projects
Tricycle recognizes that each Fellow comes to the program with individual goals and expectations. The coursework Fellows complete for the Certification in Urban Agriculture is just the beginning. The program is designed to provide opportunities for each Fellow to direct other areas of growth and learning while being supported by program staff. This may take the form of additional readings, field trips, outside educational opportunities, and projects completed in partnership with other community organizations. Each Fellow identifies an individualized learning and project plan at the beginning with the help of the Program Manager. All Fellows learn and grow from one another and share the results with their cohort at the end of the program.

Program Rotations & Field Trips
Throughout the course of the program, all Fellows rotate through several areas of Tricycle’s urban agriculture and mission programs, allowing each Fellow to gain a deeper understanding of all areas of farm management and food systems work. Program Rotations include: greenhouse management, three season farm stand operations, urban ag projects and infrastructure maintenance, and food access, distribution & education. The Fellowship cohort visits area farms and urban agriculture sites to enhance their experience and education in all areas of sustainable agriculture.

Skills Assessments
Throughout the program, participants have their developing skills assessed in both formal and informal ways. Fellows engage through shared journal reflections, group discussions and projects, written tests, class assignments and one-on-one seasonal reviews with the farm manager. These assessments help participants monitor their own progress throughout the course of the Fellowship. Participants are expected to show increasingly competent use of their knowledge and skills as they progress. Each Fellow earn their Certification in Urban Agriculture by participating in every aspect of the Fellowship and successfully completing each form of assessment.

Cost of the Program
Full scholarships are provided for the 2019 Fellowship thanks to investments made by our community partners and their commitment to Tricycle’s Certification in Urban Ag and the success of program graduates. Fellows participate at no cost.

The Certificate in Urban Ag is a rigorous course of study that requires outside reading and time spent in preparation for class discussions as well as individual and group projects. Fellows are expected to fully participate in aspects of the program with limited approval for absences.
Tricycle Urban Agriculture Fellowship
2019 Application

**Priority Deadline for Applications is January 21st**

Applications are accepted through January 25th. Send your resume and three references along with your answers to the questions below to fellowship@tricycleurbanag.org. You will receive confirmation that your application was received. If you do not, or if you have any questions, contact the Fellowship Program Manager by email (beth@tricycleurbanag.org) or call the office at 804-231-7767.

*For more information about Tricycle visit us on the web at www.tricycleurbanag.org.*

**Selection Process**

Up to 15 Fellows will be accepted into the 2019 Program. Well qualified applicants will interview in-person with members of Tricycle staff. Fellows will be notified about their acceptance into the program by February 8, 2019.

**Application Questions**

1. Why are you interested in the field of urban agriculture?

2. Describe any experience you have in farming, agriculture, and/or food systems (experience is not required to apply). Do you have any experience growing your own food?

3. All Fellows accepted into the 2019 Fellowship will receive a full scholarship from our community partners who have invested in Tricycle's Certification in Urban Agriculture and in your success. What are your goals in joining the Tricycle Fellowship? Why are you a good candidate for this program?

4. Fellows spend 12 hours a week working on Tricycle urban ag sites in order to learn how to manage all aspects of operating an urban farm. Farm work is demanding and requires physical stamina for tasks that can be repetitive, often done in weather that can be challenging. Are you comfortable with this type of work? Please describe.

5. What courses in the Certificate in Urban Agriculture are you most looking forward to taking? Why?

6. Fellows are expected to fully participate in aspects of the program with limited approval for absences. Do you foresee any barriers to being able to commit to 20 hours a week for all 8.5 months of this program?

7. How did you hear about the program?

**Want more information?**

Join Tricycle staff to learn more about urban agriculture and programs at these Applicant Volunteer Opportunities & Info Sessions:

**January Information Sessions**

**8th, 7-8pm @** the Sarah Garland Jones Community Room, 2600 Nine Mile Road, Richmond 23223

**15th, 2-3pm @** Brewer's Cafe, 1125 Bainbridge St, Richmond 23224

**January Volunteer Work-Day**

**15th, 12-2pm @** RVA's Urban Farm, 901 Bainbridge Street, Richmond 23224

*Volunteering on the farm is a great way to get to know Tricycle, our staff, our urban ag sites, and get a taste of the work you will do there as a Fellow. Come dressed for the weather and bring a water bottle!