



The purpose of the FarmStart Program is to encourage and support new farmers to develop ecological and locally based farm businesses. Goals of FarmStart include, helping to promote sustainable business models, developing effective land tenure and stewardship arrangements, coordinating and communicating innovative, new and local market research. FarmStart also helps to develop farm facilities, resources and linkages important for new and young farmers.

FarmStart helps these new farmers to gain experience and eliminates expensive start-up costs by offering access to both land and equipment at reasonable rates. New farmers taking advantage of the FarmStart program can farm at their facilities for up to five years.

FarmStart aims to work with different groups of new farmers including:

- Young people from farm backgrounds
- Young people who are new to farming
- Second career farmers
- New Canadian farmers

Currently a New Farms Incubator Program is in place to support new farm businesses. This program offers new producers access to infrastructure, equipment and land at reasonable prices. The program also offers technical training, experience with ecological and emerging farm methods, mentorship and business planning support.

The New Farms Incubator Program operates as a tiered system which includes Start-Up Farms followed by Enterprise Farms and Mentor Farms. Enterprises receive more support in the early stages of development and less support during the later stages as the enterprise is established.

FarmStart offers a variety of workshops and courses which can be helpful to new farmers. For upcoming workshops, courses, and information about the program please visit <http://www.farmstart.ca/> or phone (519) 836-7046.