As the local food system continues to grow, it is critical to assist with the development and growth of young and first-generation farmers. For more information about the Growing Growers program or to learn how to be part of growing the local food system, visit [www.growinggrowers.org](http://www.growinggrowers.org) and visit us on Facebook.

**WHAT PAST GROWING GROWERS’ PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING**

“The wealth of information I have gleaned from the series is invaluable to my pursuit in becoming a first class Urban Farmer. I have learned so many things related to this pursuit that are not readily available in other informational forums.”

*Chris Dalton, Happy Rock Farm, Gladstone, MO*

“I've learned SO much going through the Growing Growers program! Not only did I get great information and resources, the workshops helped me figure out what I DON'T want to do on my farm.”

*Bobby Walker, PlayHaven Farm LLC*

“While I didn’t realize it then, participating in the Growing Growers program had a major impact on developing my values for work, food, and the Earth’s systems and cycles. Thinking back, I really appreciate the opportunities the program gave me to hear from established farmers, visit their land, and learn some of the science behind agriculture. Growing Growers gave me valuable first-hand experience and put me in contact with helpful people and resources in the area that I couldn’t have gotten anywhere else.”

*Jenna Wilkins*
Like many urban areas across the U.S., Kansas City is experiencing a surge of demand in local and organic foods by consumers. The Growing Growers program was started in 2004 to initiate new fruit and vegetable farms in the region by providing one-on-one training by host farmers to aspiring growers. Since then, the program has grown with the mission to be a resource for establishing new growers in addition to its graduates and established growers in the area. Growing Growers provides education and professional networking opportunities for growers through a farm apprenticeship program, an annual workshop series, and the [growersKC] listserv.

Workshop Series
Growing Growers provides monthly workshops that cover many of the skills needed to run a successful farm. Core workshops include:

- Production Planning and Plant Propagation
- Building and Managing Healthy Soils
- Postharvest Handling and Food Safety
- Drip Irrigation and Small Farm Equipment
- Insect, Disease and Weed Management
- First Steps in Farm Business Planning

There are also several elective workshops offered every year in response to growers needs.

Visit our website at www.growinggrowers.org for the up-to-date workshop schedule and registration information.

Apprenticeship Program
Growing Growers apprentices are placed at local, sustainable farms growing diversified specialty crops and value-added products in the surrounding Kansas City and Lawrence metro areas. As an apprentice, you get:

- First-hand growing experience on a host farm including scheduled one-on-one training with the host farmer/mentor.
- Free registration to all Growing Growers workshops and farm tours.
- Free books and course materials covering topics such as business planning, soils, pests and disease management, etc.
- Apprentices are required to attend all 6 core workshops and at least 2 elective workshops, agricultural conferences, or professional meetings.

Apprenticeship tuition is $500. Applications are due March 1st. The Apprenticeship coordinator will work with you to find a suitable farm for your needs. Apprentices work between 10-40 hours per week and most are paid positions, but an apprentice can be a volunteer as well. Visit our website at www.growinggrowers.org to download an application and see our listing of current host farms.