



BEGINNING  
FARMERS

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

# Plotting Your Urban Farm

This activity will focus on plotting how you will use the space of your farm to maximize use for your defined vision and goals.

## KEY TERMS

**Urban Agriculture:** Growing food in cities or towns, often in small spaces like backyards, community gardens, or rooftops.

**Vertical Farming:** Growing plants in tall towers or stacked layers to save space, usually indoors.

**Hydroponics:** Growing plants in water instead of soil, with nutrients added to the water to help them grow.

**Aquaponics:** A system where fish and plants grow together; fish waste provides nutrients for plants, and plants clean the water for the fish.

**Peri-urban Agriculture:** Growing food on the outskirts of cities, where there is more space than in the city center.

**Aeroponics:** Growing plants with their roots hanging in the air, sprayed with water and nutrients.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Graph Paper
- Computer Paper
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Colored Pencils



## Urban Agriculture Critical Considerations when Establishing an Urban Farm

### How do you do this?

While this activity focuses on the design phase (step 6), it is important to consider these crucial steps to assess your urban farm:

**Step 1:** Understand the site's historic use

Discuss the site history with individuals familiar with prior uses, and search public records such as tax assessment records to provide clues to prior use.

**Step 2:** Survey the property history

Identify the types of contaminants that may be present based on the property's history and previous uses.

**Step 3:** Test the soil

Assess the soil for potential contaminants such as lead, cadmium, and arsenic, which are of particular concern in urban soils (there is a soil testing activity for lead in the Produce Safety curriculum and general soil testing information in the Soil Health Curriculum).

**Step 4:** Consider land suitability and climate

Evaluate the acreage, soil quality, and proximity to markets and other structures.

**Step 5:** Assess regional and neighborhood characteristics

Consider zoning regulations, distance to markets, and available utilities in the area.

**Step 6:** Consider design development and construction documents

Refine the conceptual design and create drawings and plans suitable for construction purposes and regulatory review. Participants should use this time to sketch out their farm using graph paper and make sure they consider the items reviewed throughout this module as they plan out their space.



**GROWING HOPE CENTER**  
9/18/2007  
Ypsilanti, MI



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