

ATTACHMENT B. INSTRUCTION OUTLINE AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

OVERVIEW

As part of the Nevada Farm Apprenticeship Program, apprentices will be taught a technical curriculum by University faculty, the DFI farm team, small business development specialists, industry partners and guest speakers. Instruction will be largely concentrated in the first six months of apprenticeship, with an additional unit focused on developing a personal farm business plan at the culmination of the program.

Learning will occur through a combination of lessons, presentations, and activities delivered by the team above and technical discussion time in which apprentices will be able to dive deeper into subjects of interest or raise questions with instructors. Technical discussion hours will be guided by the apprentice's own needs and interest within the topics of the course.

COURSE TOPICS AND APPROXIMATE HOURS:

In total, the course will fill 168 hours of the Apprenticeship. Subject areas and time spent on each are shown in the table below.

Topic	Hours of scheduled lessons	Estimated hours of technical discussion
Course management and assessments	9	0
Introduction to climate-smart small-scale fruit and vegetable farming in Nevada	6	1
Business and marketing concepts for small farms	7	1
Developing a Business and Marketing Plan	17	19
Farm startup	10	2
Farm operations management	9	2
Tools and equipment	11	1
Horticultural practices (climate-smart, organic oriented)	20	3
Food safety practices	25	4
Farmer support and resources	17	3

COURSE TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS:

A. Introduction to Climate Smart Small Scale Fruit and Vegetable Farming in NV

This topic provides an introduction to the Nevada Farm Apprenticeship Program curriculum, and covers the regional farming context, benefits and challenges of small-scale fruit and vegetable farming in an arid climate, and food security and food sovereignty issues.

B. Business and Marketing Concepts for Small Farms

This topic covers agribusiness and sales channels, farm business planning, legal requirements and regulations, accounting, feasibility study methods, creating a marketing plan, and compiling a pitch deck.

C. Farm Start Up

This topic covers land and water evaluation, farm production models and infrastructure, and farm food safety planning.

D. Farm Operations Management

This topic covers farm management software, recordkeeping systems, and team leadership and supervision.

E. Tools and Equipment

This topic provides an overview of tool and equipment options, and addresses purchasing, application and maintenance of tools and equipment.

F. Horticultural Practices

This topic covers crop planning, plant propagation, transplanting and direct seeding, soil health and conservation, integrated pest and weed management, irrigation and water conservation and season extension.

G. Food Safety Practices

This topic follows the Produce Safety Alliance grower training curriculum, and covers applied on-farm food safety practices at various farm scales. In addition, food safety requirements for various certifications will be covered.

H. Farmer Support and Resources

This topic includes strategies for maintaining mental health as a farmer, identifying and accessing mental health resources, finding and identifying reliable, fact based guidance for farming in Nevada, and networking with other farms.