

A FAQ About Farming Clubs

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Thanks for your interest Farming Clubs. There is no formal organization supporting farming clubs as yet, although, given the hearty response I received from my February 2026 interview on [The Great Simplification](#) podcast, it's become apparent that there is a need for this kind of support!

In the meantime, instead of trying to respond individually to all the requests coming my way, I have put together this FAQ with answers to frequently asked questions. If you'd like to get a message when significant updates or events are available, you can sign up at the link at the bottom of this document.

Jason Bradford

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What is a Farming Club?

Jason Bradford coined the term **farming club** to refer to associations of people who organize and meet regularly to farm for their subsistence needs. Some key goals of farming clubs are to train members to be capable farmers, to manage soils and landscapes using sustainable and regenerative practices, and to reduce the monetary costs of food by using one's own labor and by cutting out many energy- and resource-demanding inputs normally used by the modern food system.

It can help to recognize how this term is distinct from other terms.

Gardening clubs or **community gardens** have community aspects, but normally represent people managing individual plots for themselves. In the farming club model, a plot of land is farmed together. For example, there is one big row of potatoes and the harvest is divided among club members.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is when a commercial farm receives income for a share of the harvest. CSA members are therefore paying a farmer to grow food, whereas in a farming club the members themselves are the farmers and grow food for their household. In a CSA workshare situation, a member can provide labor in lieu of money for their food, but this is then considered taxable income and the worker is a laborer on the farm.

The **WWOOFER** movement allows for travelers to work for a period of time on a farm in exchange for food and lodging. Legally, the visitor is being given an educational experience and

is not a laborer, and they don't have a long-term interest in the farm. As a farming club member, you are connected to the land for your sustenance, potentially over many years, and are in charge of managing the farm affairs in collaboration with other members.

What resources do I need to start a Farming Club?

You probably need a handful of people who can organize and plan together, and of course you need some land on which to grow. Start with an assessment of resources you have already and those you need.

A suggested list of resources includes:

1. Land –Ideally you'll have access to some good quality farmland so yields are decent without a lot of costly inputs.
2. Expertise –It would be very helpful to have at least one or two people who are already skilled and knowledgeable about gardening or farming.
3. Equipment – There may be enough gardening equipment among members to get started, and some equipment can be rented if necessary.
4. Money – While the cost to grow your own food is probably a lot less than buying it, getting going requires an up-front investment.

How much area do I need per person?

This will vary a lot depending on your goals, your land and climate, and your skills. As a rough guide, on good soil it's reasonable to produce most of your annual produce needs (and some grains and beans) on about 1000 sq ft per person per year. You can't grow in the same place each year, so in a rotation for soil health perhaps allocate 3000 sq ft available per person, with 2000 sq ft being in a cover crop.

So for example, if you have 1.5 acres of farmland to use for your club, that means 0.5 acres per year might grow annual produce. This is about 22,000 sq ft, which could support 22 people.

For perspective, if we wanted to grow a nearly complete diet that included grains and beans, we may need to increase this area about five-fold per person (e.g. 15,000 sq ft). If we wanted to also graze animals and grow grains to feed hens for eggs it might go up ten-fold (30,000 sq ft, or about $\frac{2}{3}$ of an acre per person).

How much time does it take?

If you are living in the temperate zone there is a period of repose in the winter, a wind-up in the spring, a main season, and a wind-down in the fall. So the weekly work varies significantly but can be about 12 hours per person a month in the main season and only 4 hours a month in the winter. From about May through October (in the Northern Hemisphere) you may have two work parties a week to keep up with planting, weeding, harvesting, and members can choose which one to attend.

When might more information about the Farming Club model be available?

The Confluence Farming Club (which Jason founded) has applied for a grant to produce a handbook and starter kit to help other clubs get going. This will take some time to produce, but in the meantime, join the list at Post Carbon Institute for updates as they become available.

If you'd like to be notified when further information or resources are available on farming clubs specifically, please [fill out this form](#).