Headwaters Incubator Program

Cultivating Farms & Future Stewards

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Agenda

• What is a Farm Incubator?
• Why a Farm Incubator?
• How it works
• HIP Management & Progress
• On-Site Conservation
• Looking forward...
East Multnomah SWCD Service Boundaries
“A land-based, multi-grower project that provides training and technical assistance to aspiring and beginning farmers.”

What is a farm incubator?
2016

- 119 Operational Incubators
- 66 Potential Incubators
Why Would a CD Help Beginning Farmers?

1. CDs Help Farmers
2. Natural Resource Impact
3. Aging Farm Population
Why? – Financial

- Every dollar on-farm = $20 within the community (USDA)

- Every on-farm job = 3 off-farm (SBDC)
Why? – *Justice & Community*

- Inequitable land access
- Public health inequities
- Community resiliency / sovereignty

**Agricultural Producer Acreage Operated by Race**
(2017 USDA Agricultural Census for Multnomah County)

- White: 24,393 acres
- All others: 868 acres
EMSWCD’s Stake...

1. Increase # of New Farmers
2. Keep Farmland in Production
3. Good Stewardship!
Headwaters Farm
How It Works

1. Capital
2. Trainings
3. Farm Networks
4. Markets
How It Works

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Who We Work With

- Experienced Growers
- 5-Yr Farm Cohort Model
- 2021 = 19 Farms
- 57% Female Farmers
- 37% FOC
HIP By the Numbers

- 37 Farms / 52 Farmers
- 16 Grad Farms
- 12 Still Farming
- 6 in District / 11 Serving
- 4 Drop-Outs
Program Management

• Farmer Selection
• Setting Expectations
• Staffing
• Budget
• Challenges
 Conservation Investments

• Energy
• Stormwater
• Fish Passage
• Pollinator Habitat
• Soil Health
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What’s Next...