



## **Announcement of 2014 Grant Cycle for Small Farmers & Sustainability Projects from The FruitGuys Community Fund**

### **Background**

The FruitGuys Community Fund, established in 2012 as a non-profit, fiscally sponsored project of [Community Initiatives](#), is pleased to announce its 2014 grant cycle to support sustainability projects for small- to mid-size independent farms and sustainable agriculture nonprofits. The Fund was established by [The FruitGuys](#), a national fruit distribution company based in San Francisco, after 5 years of grants made through its Farm Steward program. The Fund's primary goals are to help farms, orchards, and agricultural nonprofits operate more sustainably, create a healthier environment, and stronger local economies and food systems. For more information, see our website (<http://fruitguyscommunityfund.org>). In 2013, five grants were made in California and Pennsylvania.

### **2014 Grant Cycle**

Grants in the amount of \$2,500-\$5,000 will be awarded in April 2014. Preference will be given to applicants within 150 miles of San Francisco, Philadelphia, or Chicago. Projects to be considered should help farms and orchards operate more sustainably, both environmentally and economically, as well as strengthen community outreach. Some examples of the sustainability projects may include (but are not limited to): planting of cover crops to help with water management and soil fertility; planting pollinator-attracting perennials and/or installing bee hives; installation of bat boxes or owl boxes to attract predators and keep rodent numbers down; installation of high tunnels or hoop houses to extend the growing season.

Within the total project budget, up to 10% of the total grant awarded (i.e. up to \$500) may consist of funding to support the community outreach, education, and/or advocacy as outlined in question 4 of the grant application. Projects must be completed by December 1, 2014.

**Grant applications are due by midnight, February 15, 2014.**

### **Requirements**

1. Applicant is an owner/operator of the farm or has long-term, legal access to the land. *If farming on leased land, a letter of support from the landowner specifying length of the lease agreement must be provided with the grant application.*
2. Farm is small- to medium-sized as determined by acreage in agricultural production.
3. Farmer will engage both in sustainability project and in community outreach, education, or advocacy surrounding sustainable agriculture in the funded project area. Each effort must be described in detail in the grant proposal.

### **Preferences for 2014 award cycle**

1. Farm is located within 150 miles of San Francisco CA, Philadelphia PA, or Chicago IL.

2. Sustainability project is focused on one of the areas mentioned in our [sustainability manifesto](#), including but not limited to:

- Pests (for example, owl or bat boxes)
- Pollination (for example, bee hives & pollinator hedgerows)
- Soil Health (for example, cover crops & hoop houses)

3. Farm participates in some efforts to increase low-income consumers' access to food.

### **Application Procedures**

Applicants are invited to submit via email a brief proposal (7 pages maximum plus separate attachments for preliminary site photos). Grant applications should be submitted as email attachments and sent to [communityfund@fruitguys.com](mailto:communityfund@fruitguys.com) and all applicants must include the following information:

- Answers to Questions 1-7 listed below
- At least 2 suitable "before" photos as described in Question 8

*If required, please also attach:*

- Letter of support from landowner
- Status of permit applications

No cover letter is required. Incomplete applications, or those not meeting the requirements stated above, will not be reviewed. Qualifying grants will be reviewed by a group of volunteer advisory board members and awards will be announced in April 2014. Those chosen will be judged to have the greatest potential impact on farm operations (environmental and economic sustainability) as well as to the community.

### **Application Questions**

#### **1. Contact info**

Applicant's primary contact information: name, title, address, telephone, email, and website (if applicable). Please also include contact information for the person responsible for overseeing or completing the projects described, if different than primary contact.

#### **2. Applicant description**

(a) Total size of farm and as well as acreage in agricultural production. (b) Status and tenure of ownership. (c) Type of crops grown. (d) How crops are sold/distributed.

#### **3. Sustainability: project goals and objectives**

(a) What project do you propose to do on your farm with these funds? (b) How would this impact your farm's operations, both year one and on-going? (c) How will you measure and report the positive impacts of this project? For instance, increase in yields; additional CSA shares sold; reduction in water used; etc. (d) Are any permits required for completion of this project (yes or no)? If yes, please describe the status of the permit application and expected date it will be awarded.

#### **4. Community impact through outreach, education & advocacy: project goals and objectives**

(a) What project do you propose to conduct outreach, education, and/or advocacy surrounding sustainable agriculture in your community? (b) What is your experience to date in such community efforts? (c) How will you measure and report the positive impacts of this project? (number of visitors to farm, workshops offered, increase in CSA membership,

letters written to editor, etc.)

### **5. Low-Income Food Access**

Does your farm participate in any efforts to increase food access by low-income consumers? If so please specify organizations partnered with, pounds of produce donated, number of low-cost CSA shares offered, etc.

### **6. Budget**

(a) Include a budget narrative, including income sources (expected and secured) and expenses for the proposed projects described in questions 3 & 4. Include estimates for any necessary materials or supplies, personnel costs (if needed), as well as any in-kind contributions. (b) What impact would receiving funding from The FruitGuys Community Fund have on your ability to complete this project? (c) If the budget exceeds \$5,000, please explain how these additional funds will be secured.

### **7. Timeline**

Outline the major milestones and resources needed for completing the sustainability project. For instance, "Equipment and parts ordered by June 15th, to be delivered by July 1," or, "Hire new part-time employee to assist with hoop house construction by May 20." *Please note, all projects should be completed in full by December 1, 2014.*

### **8. Farm photos**

Please attach at least 2 photos of your farm to illustrate the setting and context: these may be considered "before" photos of the site where the proposed sustainability project will take place. Please use the highest quality & largest size possible and submit in jpg format as attachments.

### **Awards & Reporting**

Funds will be awarded in two installments: an initial installment of 75% of the proposed costs will be awarded in Spring 2014. An interim progress report (~2 pages plus supporting photos) must be submitted by September 1, 2014. The remaining 25% of funds will be dispersed following submission of the final report due by December 10, 2014 and depends on successful completion of the project as well as all reporting requirements. Reporting forms will be emailed to all grant recipients after grants are announced.

Questions may be sent to [communityfund@fruitguys.com](mailto:communityfund@fruitguys.com).