

Case Study: Stream Farm

ABOUT STREAM FARM

Stream Farm was started in 2002 with the aim of providing training and self-employment to new entrants to farming and revitalising the rural landscape. The 250-acre organic farm in Somerset has a number of different enterprises running on the farm, including beef, lamb, pork, chicken, eggs, smoked and fresh trout, apple juice, spring water and honey. The aim is to provide people with a pathway to a sustainable livelihood, and for people to move on after a few years and continue running their own enterprises elsewhere.

THE MODEL

The farm operates on a Share Farming model, with people coming on board to run one of the on-farm enterprises full time for up to two years. During this time, people are trained on the farm and take responsibility for the enterprise, learning the practical skills as well as the knowledge necessary to run a successful business. Produce is sold through a single central brand that encompasses all the enterprises on the farm. The enterprises are designed to run and complement each other - for example the hens roam in the apple orchards, and all the farmers come together to support each other when intensive amounts of work are needed - for example cleaning barns

in the winter or preparing a trout order.

MARKETS

Stream Farm sell all their produce under a single brand, selling direct to customers, restaurants and occasional markets. Learning about this side of the business is part of what trainees learn while they're on the the farm.

TRAINING

There is no formal training, but practical training and business training is given on the farm while people are running the enterprises.

COST

- There is no cost to the participants - they are paid a share of the gross income of their enterprise earns, aiming for a livelihood at a living wage (some currently provide a full livelihood, some a partial livelihood).
- Some of the farmers live on site, so their financial needs, whilst they are being trained, are lower than they would be otherwise. As part of the Share Farming model, the rest of the gross revenue goes to the central Stream Farm business to cover the working capital, maintenance, the land etc.

