



Pathways to Farming

Trainee Grower Job Spec...

Pathways to Farming (PtF) is a new project run by Mach Maethlon and funded by *Arwain Rural Development Programme* and the *Ashley Family Foundation*. The project will run until Dec 2020. The aim of PtF is to strengthen the local food economy in North Powys by training new horticultural food producers and creating new markets for local food to be sold into.

One aspect of the project is to run new 'microfarm' sites on which people can train to become food producers. The idea of these microfarm plots is that they are a stepping stone into commercial food production, not commercial sized plots in themselves. Growers will be offered training in sustainable food production and support to eventually move on to selling food on a larger scale.

Our microfarms are currently located in Machynlleth and Newtown.

What are we offering:

- A microfarm plot with access to water and other infrastructure such as a share of polytunnel space. Microfarm plots will be approximately 100m².
- Regular training sessions in Sustainable Horticultural Food Production.
- Potential to do accredited vocational training in the future.
- Support with horticultural business planning.
- Mentoring from more experienced growers.
- Networking opportunities.
- Support to access new markets to sell your produce.
- A 'stepping stone' into commercial horticultural food production. Taking part in our programme will allow you to start testing your ideas and deepening your experience of food production.

Growing food for your community to consume can be incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be hard work and notoriously difficult to make a living from. PtF aims to address the barriers to getting new entrants into food production and to support them along that journey as much as possible. We cannot guarantee that you will find a viable career in farming at the end of this training.

What we are looking for:

Essential:

- A time commitment of at least one day per week + watering duties to manage your own microfarm plot.
- A desire to train in food production with a view to becoming a commercial grower in the future.
- Regular attendance at training sessions.
- An interest in growing fruit and vegetables.

- A passion to create a more sustainable local food system.
- A desire to work outdoors and get your hands in the soil.
- Ability to manage your own time and sometimes work alone on your microfarm.

Desirable:

- Some experience of growing food crops.

If this sounds like something you are interested in then please send us a cover letter explaining why you want to get involved and how you meet the criteria we are looking for.

jodie@machmaethlon.org Pathways to Farming, Centre for Alternative Technology, Pantperthog, Machynlleth, SY20 9AZ.

Already have land?

We are happy to include growers who already have access to land in our training programme.

Ready to go commercial?

If you feel you already have a strong knowledge of horticultural food production and do not require training, we can still work with you to help you with horticultural business planning and accessing new markets. As well as running microfarms we are also looking to establish some larger commercial sized plots for growers ready to start running a food growing business. Get in touch for further discussions.