

# Welcome to Kinsman Farm

## Our Story

Kinsman Farm, established in 2010 as a part of the USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant, is a 6-acre, market incubator farm for new and beginning farmers interested in agricultural enterprises that contribute to Greater Cleveland's local food economy. The land on which the farm now occupies was once known as the "forgotten triangle," having suffered from business and population loss and severe disinvestment for over 40 years. Despite many challenges with the redevelopment of this former residential site in the Kinsman neighborhood, continuous efforts are undertaken to remove debris, improve soil quality, manage invasive plants and insects, and restore this land to productive use.

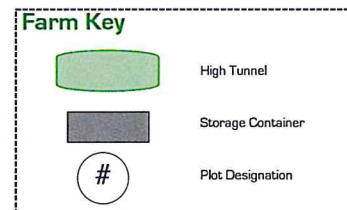
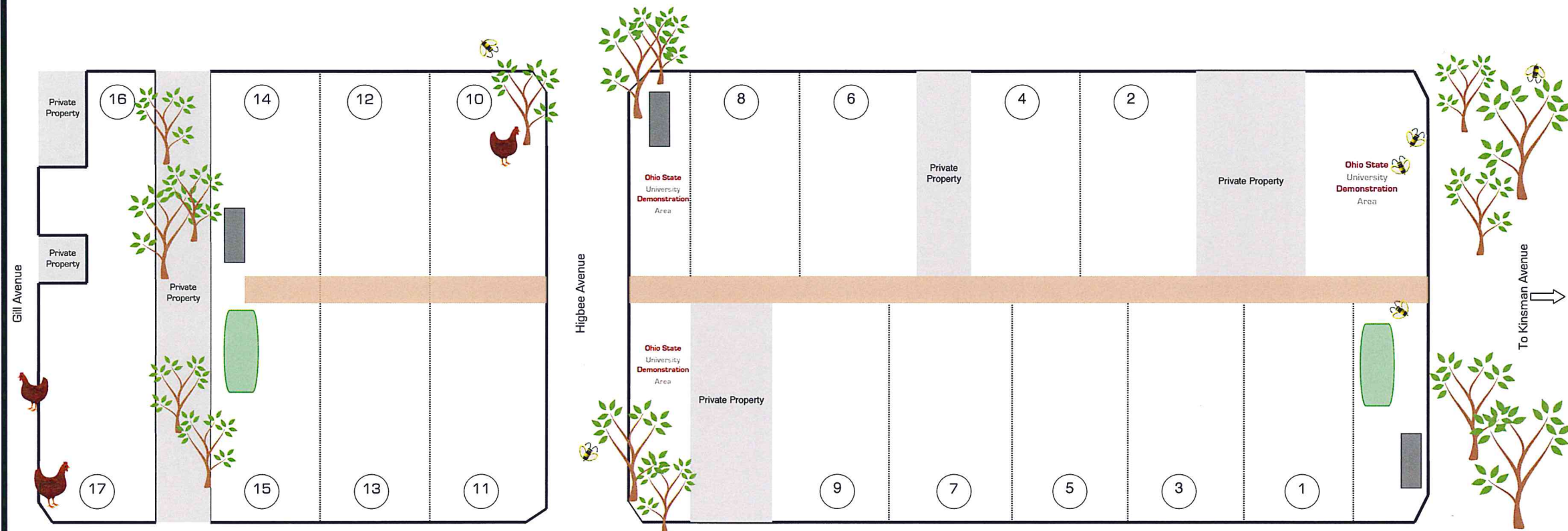
Unlike other urban farms, this "incubator" farm provides farmers with both infrastructure support and research-based education to reduce the risks related to starting new farming businesses. All participating farmers must complete Ohio State University Extension's Market Gardener Training Program and present a formal business plan to be considered for a plot on the farm. Upon acceptance, farmers lease approximately .25 acre of land from West Creek Conservancy, a nonprofit land conservancy agency vested in sustainability of urban land. Farmers are also allotted growing areas in the high tunnels and storage space within the repurposed shipping containers. In exchange for the benefits of this incubator type of farm, each farmer has a responsibility to assist with overall farm maintenance and operations. Ohio State University Extension oversees two demonstration areas on the farm to showcase growing techniques and specialty crops as well as provide for hands-on learning opportunities. All produce grown from these demonstration areas is donated to nearby assisted housing communities.

## Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone

Kinsman Farm is proud to be a part of Cleveland's 26.5 acre Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone- one of the largest of its kind in the nation. Under the leadership of Burten, Bell, Carr Development Corporation, a master plan for the Kinsman neighborhood was crafted that reflected the residents' desires to re-activate the use of vacant land in this area with urban agriculture as a viable means for productive reuse. The resulting vision entailed large-scale urban agriculture that included evolutionary practices and techniques for cultivating food while restoring neighborhood prosperity. With strong support from the City of Cleveland which owns most of the land, partnerships developed that turned this vision into reality and continue to support multiple entrepreneurial endeavors within the Zone.

## Growing Together

Kinsman Farm is a unique partnership among Ohio State University Extension- Cuyahoga County, West Creek Conservancy, City of Cleveland, Burten, Bell, Carr Development Corporation and our many urban farmers and other stakeholders committed to a healthier and more sustainable urban environment. Additional financial support for the farm's infrastructure was provided by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture.



## Come Grow With Us

Kinsman Farm provides many opportunities for learning, sharing and volunteering. If you are interested in bringing a group of students out to explore the farm, donating your time to assist with farm needs (administrative and agricultural), or learning how you can become a Kinsman farmer, please contact us:

Ohio State University Extension: 216-429-8200  
[cuyahoga.osu.edu](http://cuyahoga.osu.edu)  
 West Creek Conservancy: 216-749-3720  
[westcreek.org](http://westcreek.org)

## Our Partners

