

**HOUR EXCHANGE PORTLAND MICRO-ENTERPRISE
ISLAND FARMING PROJECT
PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

HEP proposes to enter into agreement with XXXX of Island Farm for the purpose of growing seasonal flowers. Sales of the flowers would benefit Hour Exchange Portland, which is a non-profit organization. Reciprocity for use of the farm land could include farm chores, flower products and housing chores. Cash payment for any necessary legal requirements for land use or farming operation would be provided by HEP to Island Farm.

- Acreage Requested: One acre
- Farmer: Greg, with assistance by pre-selected HEP Members who have farming experience, time and willingness to participate.
- Management: Hour Exchange Portland Staff
- Security/Privacy: Hour Exchange Portland Staff will coordinate all schedules and insure only participating HEP members have access to the farm site.
- Contract Period: End of March, 2008-early October, 2008 with high season June-early September
- Traffic Schedule: High farming time will be planting season and harvesting. Products will be rotated to meet consumer demand based on Portland Farmer's Market season. Assistants will have limited access mainly for watering and weeding 3-4 times per week. Farmer Greg will likely visit the farm daily, for short periods.
- Land Questions: How would we work with your Farm Manager? What would his role be?
What area is closest to the water source?
Is there a compost heap on the farm now? Can we create one?
Is there any farming equipment available for use? (Tractor)
Is the barn available for storage of materials? May we assess the barns needs for repairs, cleaning, safety, etc. and then make upgrades as needed?
- Legal Questions: What is the process, and time for negotiations with the Family Corporation, if any are required?
Are there any restrictions for farm products on the approved lot?
- Benefits to Island Farm: Appropriate use of land that will be loved and nurtured.
Reciprocity through tasks accomplished to support farm and family.
Building positive social capital; positive publicity for the collaboration.
- Benefits to HEP: Piloting this micro-enterprise will engage HEP members in a service that will support the operating budget of the HEP and allow members to earn time dollars in the process. This will be mutually beneficial to members interested in learning about organic gardening and small business development. Additional membership involvement will include: collection of vases for restaurant sales; sales at the Farmer's Market; cash purchases; documentation and record keeping, and other servicing relevant aspects of the operation.
- The project will be documented as a pilot, with lessons learned. If this project is deemed successful to both parties, an expansion of flowers or the addition of other products could be considered. Most importantly, the project's design will be available for replication for Exchanges in other parts of the country.

