



## **Why SPIN-Farming?**

Many of the world's most pressing problems – finite resources, climate change, diet-related illnesses, national security – relate to the way we produce our food.

While the current large-scale industrialized system is efficient, it has some big negatives:

- it's energy and resource intensive
- it takes more from the natural system than it puts back
- in some cases, its by-products actually harm the environment
- much of the food it produces is not nutritious
- it's susceptible to supply disruption and sabotage

A solution is to re-engineer our food production system to one that is more locally oriented and therefore, one that is easier to control and monitor, contributes positively to the environment and produces fresh, healthy food. SPIN-Farming provides a basis for such a system.

## **What is SPIN-Farming?**

SPIN is a non-technical, easy-to-understand and inexpensive-to-implement vegetable farming system that is:

- Sub-acre in scale
- Environmentally friendly
- Low-capital intensive
- Close to markets
- Entrepreneurially-driven

### **Here is the current farming mindset:**

- A land base spanning hundreds or thousands of acres
- Substantial financial investment and substantial debt burdens
- Reliance on mechanized equipment that is costly to maintain
- Dependence on expensive high-maintenance irrigation systems
- Significant operating overhead that dilutes profits
- Far-flung markets that are complex and costly to access

### **Here is the SPIN-Farming mindset:**

- A sub-acre land base purchased inexpensively, or accessed and farmed at no cost at all
- Modest financial start-up costs because of minimal infrastructure
- Elimination of the two big barriers to entry – land and capital
- Reliance on hand labor to accomplish most farming tasks
- Reliance on the family and friends network to meet labor needs
- Utilization of existing water sources to meet all irrigation needs
- Minimal operating overhead that produces a strong bottom line
- Situated close to markets, saving time and money
- Bottom line: little or no debt

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## **What Makes SPIN-Farming Different?**

SPIN recasts farming as a small business in a city or town. It is replicable and as close to a franchise-ready farming system as you can have, while also accommodating the creative and place-based nature of farming.

### **Here are SPIN-Farming Key Concepts:**

- Standard size bed** – one that measures 2 feet wide by 25 feet long
- High value crop** – one that produces \$100 per harvest per bed
- Relay cropping** – the sequential growing of crops
- Intensive relay cropping** – growing 3 high value crops per bed per season
- Bi-relay** – growing 2 lesser value crops per bed per season
- 1-2-3 rule** – divides the farm into 3 different areas of crop intensity
- Land allocation** – the smaller the farm, the more of its area needs to be devoted to intensive relay production
- Revenue targeting formula** - 1 acre accommodates 480 standard size beds, including paths walkways and infrastructure; if all are intensively relay cropped they will produce \$300 per bed per season;  $480 \text{ beds} \times \$300 = \$144,000$  per acre per season

### **Who is SPIN-Farming?**

There is no one profile. SPIN can fit into any life style or life cycle.

- Some are doing it in backyards in the city, on front lawns in the suburbs or as part of large acreages in the country
- Some do it full-time; others part-time
- Some work alone; others employ family and friends
- Some are just starting their career; others are on the third or fourth
- Some are retired and want to be engaged in a purposeful activity

### **So Is This a Movement?**

A society not only must have its ideals; they must from time to time, be re-constituted in a way that sparks our imaginations and guides our strivings. That is what is happening now. Across several countries, at countless sustainability forums, eco-expos and green gabfests like this, people are coming together to think things through again, make certain re-appropriations, create a new ideal. For many, especially those in cities and towns, this new ideal includes meeting more food needs locally. And SPIN-Farming can help. While the last few decades have seen many last harvests as cropland was turned into concrete, SPIN is for those who will tend cropland amid concrete. May SPIN-Farming pave the way for many first harvests...

### **How can I learn more?**

Free pass-along downloads showing SPIN-Farming in action are available at [www.spinfarming.com](http://www.spinfarming.com)

***SPIN-Farming Makes Agriculture Accessible to Anyone, Anywhere!***