



BACKYARD CROPLAND NEGOTIATING POINTS

TERM - Clarify that your use is for an entire season, and that if the the property is sold mid-season, that you be allowed to finish out the current season. Specify a start and end date.

RENT/BARTER/UPKEEP - Specify what the landowner wants in return for your use of the land; typically it is cash or a weekly supply of vegetables or keeping the land maintained.

APPEARANCE - Commit to keeping the plot you work neat and weeded.

INSURANCE - Clarify what insurance you have and what it covers; many SPIN farmers obtain basic business liability coverage.

CROPS GROWN -Specify that you will maintain a working garden consisting of common vegetables, herbs and flowers, and that one or many different crops may be growing at one time.

GROWING PRACTICES - Specify that you use all organic farming practices.

ACCESS - Clarify how you will gain access to the yard.

WORK SCHEDULE -Set agreed upon times when you'll be working in the plot; ask to be granted some latitude with these times. If you do need to work at an unscheduled time, you can offer to do your best to give a half day's advance notice by phone and/or email.

UNDERGROUND CABLES OR PIPES – If you plan to operate a rototiller, have the owner investigate to be sure there is nothing under the ground where you will be maintaining your plot.

WATER USAGE - Specify that you require the use of the landowner's water and describe the type of irrigation setup you will be using. Assure them you will make every effort to use water wisely; if water usage is an issue, you can suggest that they monitor it and offer to pay the difference between their usual bill and any increase that would be attributed to your operation.

EQUIPMENT - Specify that most work will be completed with simple hand tools such as hoes, shovels, scissors, knives, wheel hoes, seeders and other common manually operated garden tools. If you do plan to operate a rototiller advise the landowner on what that entails and verify that there are no utility lines near where you will be rototilling.

NOT U-PICK – Ask that the landowner not pick vegetables from the garden because you depend on them for your livelihood. If there is a particular vegetable they would like, you can request that they let you know.

CLOSEDOWN - Agree that at the end of each season you will leave the plot tilled and leveled.

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