

# FIELD DAY RESOURCE GUIDE

## Balancing Farm and Off-Farm Work



## FAIVOR FRESH PRODUCE

Rebekah Faivor has a diverse background in agriculture and owns and operates Faivor Fresh Produce in St. Johns, Michigan. Rebekah specializes in vegetable production, and is known for her cut flower arrangements she sells at the farmers market. In addition to her farm, Rebekah also works full-time with the Clinton County Conservation District as a Conservationist, working with farmers to implement Farm Bill Programs. With the help of her husband, Louis, Rebekah continues working full-time, farming, operating a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), selling at two local farmers markets, and raising their four children.

### TIPS FROM THE FARMER

#### 1. Be willing to sacrifice the little things.

You won't always be able to get everything done in one day, and that's okay. Sometimes, you'll have to sacrifice the little things like mowing the lawn, or cleaning the house. Rebekah mentions that having her kids help out on the farm might mean that the lawn gets mowed in crazy patterns, or that a few weeds might get missed, but it's worth it to know that she's able to spend time with her kids and be productive on the farm.

#### 2. Utilize all of your resources.

Farming and working full-time is no easy task. Make connections with other farmers in your community and build relationships. When life gets a little hectic and you need a helping hand, you'll have others to ask for help, and they'll do the same for you!

#### 3. Schedule your time in advance or create a routine.

When planning her time, Rebekah likes to use a Google Calendar to help visualize how much time she'll need to spend on farming tasks, while Louis has created a routine for himself that he sticks to every day. Whether you choose to document your time in a calendar or create a routine for yourself, be sure to know what your plan is at the start of the day. This way, you'll know that everything gets done.



## RESOURCES

- 1. Time Management: Establishing the Basics.** Elizabeth Gutierrez, Michigan State University Extension, 2013.  
This easy to understand guide provided by MSU Extension reviews the benefits of time management and how to better understand and engage in its three basic components. These strategies can help any farmer create a time management strategy best fit for their farm.
- 2. Getting Started in Farming: Part-Time or Small Farms.** Michael D. Duffy, Iowa State University Extension, 2013.  
When considering whether or not to start part-time farming, this article by Iowa State University Extension may help you take all factors into consideration. Whether you're balancing family life, a full-time job, other activities, or a combination of all the above, IA State Extension helps walk you through the process of making the big decision.
- 3. From Boardroom to Barnyard: Why Most American Farmers Farm Part-Time.** Ivory Harlow, Farm and Dairy, 2017.  
This article outlines a few reasons why part-time farming works. While working a full-time job, part-time farming can contribute to your livelihood in many ways. Food and Dairy reflects on the benefits of this balance while comparing the disadvantages.