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GROWING ORGANICALLY WITH SUPPORT: A TESTIMONIAL FROM BABY TREX FARMS

Article by: Louisiana State University Ag Center

For Megan Bayha, owner of Baby TRex Farms in New Orleans, the journey toward organic farming has been shaped by mentorship, education, and community. As a graduate of the Grow Louisiana (Grow LA) Beginning Farmer Training Program, Megan has experienced firsthand how programs like Grow LA and SE TOPP's Mentorship initiative can transform the path of a beginning farmer.

Although Megan is still weighing whether to pursue full organic certification, she is committed to farming with organic practices. "I want to do everything organically," she explains. "In the meantime, I am documenting and keeping record of everything we are doing at the farm." That diligence reflects the foundation of certification—building systems of accountability and care for the soil, crops, and community.



Baby TRex Farms cultivates 2,500 square feet of cut flowers and edible garnishes, producing more than 80 crop varieties each year. By 2026, the farm plans to expand its growing space to 3,000 square feet. Megan credits Grow LA's inperson training for helping her balance technical and business skills.

Making us sit down and write a full business plan — I had never done that before," she reflects. "You definitely need both to succeed."

The program's breadth of topics and community connections provided her with resources that online courses alone could not.



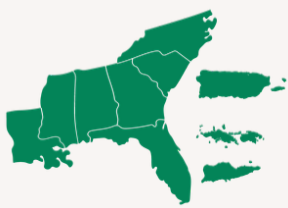
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Mentorship has been a cornerstone of her progress. Working with SE TOPP mentor Michael O’Gorman, Megan explained the advantage she has gained via one-on-one technical assistance. “Having a person to talk through all of this with has been valuable. Someone who has done it for decades might save me years of trial and error,” she says.

With guidance, Baby TRex Farms has expanded into new ventures like lettuce production and refined its soil management practices. By consulting Logan Labs and applying only the amendments her soil truly needs, Megan has learned that “it is worth every dollar to be extra vigilant in the care for your soil. It makes a bigger difference on a small-scale operation than larger scale.

Like many beginning farmers, Megan faces challenges of time, organization, and scaling up while managing employees fairly. Yet she emphasizes that the support she’s received makes the difference: It’s very clear that you guys really care. That you are invested, and you want to see these farms succeed.”

Her story is a reminder that organic farming is not just about certification — it’s about building resilient systems, learning from experienced mentors, and joining a community that believes in sustainable agriculture. For new farmers considering organic production, Megan’s journey shows that with the right guidance and resources, the path forward is not only possible but rewarding.



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