

OPEN CALL FARM



VALLEY
OF THE
POSSIBLE

Open Call FARM

8 WEEKS

SEPTEMBER 15TH - NOVEMBER 16TH 2025

For the first time, Gagel farm will open her ecosystem to facilitate farmers in residence who want to help us in answering the question: how do we farm in reciprocity with life within Europe contexts of the 21st century?

Industrial agriculture – characterised by intensive plowing, overgrazing, monocultures, animal suffering, pesticides and artificial fertilizers – is still the norm in Europe. Consequently, we live in a time of extreme loss of life due to the destruction of ecosystems and exhaustion of soils. Within this conventional system, the farmers have become the revenue model for large corporations and food is mainly distributed on a global scale, rather than feeding local communities. Additionally, the nutritional value of the food produced by conventional agriculture is plummeting, and pesticides and plastics have become part of our daily meals.

Worldwide, industrial agriculture is causing the loss of 30 football pitches worth of fertile, living soils per minute – amounting to 12 million hectares per year. Food systems that destroy life cannot feed us. Depleted soils can no longer withstand increasing temperatures, severe drought or rainfall, and thus cannot support life. That is, unless they are regenerated.

Regenerative agriculture offers a new, hands-on perspective on how humans can co-create landscapes that are abundant in food as well as life. We need more regenerative farmers to build new food systems which focus on feeding all forms of life, on rebuilding ecosystems and facilitating healthy habitats for all beings that reside in our landscapes.

This residency is meant for regenerative farmers that are about to start their own regenerative initiative or business, or are already partaking in one, and are looking for ways to deepen or broaden their regenerative understanding in both theory and practice. They will do so by working intensely and all round at Gagel farm, while getting in-depth feedback on their own proposals or plans. They will also work with EAT residents to deepen their understanding of the importance of a new food culture.



Some core questions participants will engage with are:

- **How will you farm in a way that considers your bioregional context and enhances the life holding capacity of your landscape?** This includes, for example, ecological and cultural history of place, pattern understanding, landscape design, water management, ecological succession and planned disturbance, crop selection, soil improvement, appropriate farming methods and practices, and ecological engagement
- **How will you build and run a business that actually regenerates?** This includes, for example, sales, marketing and communication, financial planning, business planning, and access to money and resources
- **How will you farm in a way that generates reciprocity, multiple forms of value and that shares abundance?** This includes, for example, sharing skills and knowledge, community building, partnerships, storytelling, teaching, access to land and networks, and European policies and regulations
- **How will you live the life that you want, while building the world you want to live in, with your resources and your own purpose?** This includes, for example, a holistic context, decision making, holistic management, team building, farm life and re-indigenizing. the integration between health, art, science, philosophy, politics, spiritual values and cosmologies

Context

At Gagel Farm, we focus on regenerating our 45-ha landscape by growing edible ingredients while building a habitat for all life that resides in and/or passes through our bioregion. Additionally – but certainly no less urgently – we focus on facilitating the transition to a regenerative (agri)culture in the broadest definition of the word. Holistic management and decision making are central to our regenerative perspective.

This philosophical method means that ecological, economic and social factors receive equal consideration, while equally benefitting from the choices we make.

"What fungi have shown me is that we can't, and we don't have to do, anything alone. They question the limits of individual existence." – Giuliana Furci

Regeneration thrives on transparency and awareness through the feedback we receive from all life – both human and more-than-human – that surrounds us. By choosing to apply to the EAT residency, you share openness to participating and receiving feedback from a variety of human and more-than-human life on the farm.

“Becoming native to a place comes with the give and take between living there, if you're going to live there, and be gifted with the gifts of that place, that you then return your gifts to that place.” – Robin Wall Kimmerer

Gagel Farm invites (apprentice) farmers to work from this mindset and allow the reality on the ground at our farm to inspire you and be a guide to your work. We encourage cross-disciplinary projects, self-aware dedication and a collaborative, open-minded spirit.

"Landscape restoration does not only change ecological function, it changes the socio-economic function and when you get down to it, it changes the intention of human society." – John D. Liu

ERF Residency Programme

ERF is a multi-year residency programme at Gagel Farm. Our mission is to facilitate the transition to a regenerative (agri)culture through the cross-pollination of contemporary residences taking place by artists, cooks and culinary professionals, farmers and scientists. ERF consists of three trajectories which each offer space for the situated entanglement of different disciplines through the exchange of embodied knowledge, theoretical knowledge, inspiration and collaboration at a regenerative farm.

EAT Cycle

Mid-September - Mid November

8 weeks, 2 cooks-in-residence

RECONNECT Cycle

June - November

4 weeks, 1 or 2 artists-in-residence

FARM Cycle

Mid-September - Mid November

8 weeks, 2 farmers-in-residence

The EAT residency takes place seasonally for a period of eight weeks and aligns with the FARM residency within the same timeframe. From September through November 2025, two EAT residents and two FARM residents will work with the seasons collaboratively, while residing in a private bell tent on the Gagel Farm camp grounds. Both the culinary (EAT) as well as the farm (FARM) residents can work, cook, eat and collaborate with the entire Gagel Farm team.





What we offer

Space, time, guidance and infrastructure to become a regenerative farmer

An 8-week stay at Gagel Farm campsite in a cosy, private bell tent

A broad, European network of regenerative farmers and agricultural organisations to refer to in your journey to start or reinvent your own regenerative farm

A 50% reduction on the course 'How to start a regenerative farm?' at Gagel Farm to gain insight into regenerative farming and holistic management, departing from a general introduction to regeneration by Anne van Leeuwen

A five-day a week per diem of €40 for the duration of 8 weeks. The total compensation is €1600 per residency period

Insight into how a regenerative farm works and who grows, hatches, blooms, sleeps, flies and dies in which season

Professional guidance by Ricardo Cano Mateo, Spanish biologist, regenerative designer and entrepreneuring farmer at Gagel farm

3 hours a week of dedicated, 1-on-1 coaching by Gagel Farm's own entrepreneuring farmers Anne van Leeuwen, Daan Houwers or Ricardo Cano Mateo, based on your personal preference and focus

- Anne van Leeuwen is responsible for storytelling, farm animals and network
- Daan Houwers is responsible for our tree nursery and on the ground operations
- Ricardo Cano Mateo is responsible for design and planning

An inspirational workshop hosted at Gagel Farm by a pioneer in regenerative farming from Europe

The possibility to cross-pollinate with other residents (farmers, artists, scientists and professional cooks)

Dates, Conditions & Facilities

8 weeks - September 15th until November 16th 2025

Facilities:

The campsite includes facilities for cooking, including availability of a kettle, coffee machine and open fire pit, as well as showers and toilets.

Residents are responsible for their own meals, but have free access to the vegetable garden filled with regenerative produce grown and harvested at Gagel Farm and will receive climate eggs from our grazing chicken flock.

Residents have access to a bike, to the on-farm shop and access to shopping at a local grocery store in the nearby town of Lochem.

This farmer residency does not include:

International travel costs and expenses, meals and beverages, costs of visa applications, or budget for individual excursions or field trips.



Candidates

We welcome two farmers per FARM residency cycle who fit the following profile. The candidates:

- Have experience with working on a farm
- Will take charge of their own learning journey by showing initiative in planning meetings with their farm coach, in asking questions and in joining farm tasks
- Will treat the farm as both a working and a living space where many people are involved. Their work will not interfere with the day-to-day business activities at the farm. They will neither infringe on the private living spaces of team members at the farm, or upon the more than human inhabitants on the farm
- Applicants should be aware of the complex, living ecosystem of Gagel Farm and take into account the possible effects of the hustle-and-bustle of farm life, community and events on their own plans. Thus, a level of flexibility and independence is required of the residents.

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted before May 25th. However, once 50 applications for a cycle have been received, the open call for that season will be closed due to the processing capacity of our organisation.

Applicants are asked to submit:

1. A resume/portfolio/holistic context in a pdf format entitled as follows:
FirstName_LastName_R
2. A motivation letter/essay/storytelling (format is up to the applicant, but must not exceed 10MB – e.g. max. 2 pages of text excluding images or max. 10 minutes of video).
The document should be entitled FirstName_LastName_M and should address:
 - How they will engage with the questions raised in this open call and elaborate on their chosen focus during their residency
 - A description how and why Gagel Farm plays a crucial role in realizing their personal and professional regenerative development as a farmer
 - A sketch of what they plan to bring to Gagel Farm and what they expect to receive and learn in return
 - An illustration of their farming vision and purpose that paints a picture how they plan to contribute to the regenerative farming movement in Europe

All application files should be attached to one email and sent to erf@gagel.nl in an email with the subject title: Application FARM residency **before June 1st 2025.**

Once the open call is closed, all applications will be checked to ensure that all requirements are met. Only applicants who submitted all requested information and documents will move on in the selection process. The applications will be judged by Anne van Leeuwen, Daan Houwers and Ricardo Cano Mateo.

Selection

All applications are considered based on the response to the following set of standards. The applicant demonstrates:

- Engagement with the main questions raised in this open call
- Previous professional experience working in (regenerative) agriculture
- An independent, pro-active, open and flexible attitude
- Engagement with regenerative principles is required, a deeper understanding of it is preferred
- A demonstrated focus on developing or reinventing a farming business as a main source of income
- Dedication to mutual flourishing between residents, their learning process and the farm – active reflection on the question “Why Gagel Farm? What will I bring to Gagel Farm and what do I expect Gagel Farm to bring to me?”
- How they plan to contribute to the regenerative farming movement in Europe

Applicants will be notified by email before June 25th 2025.

For more information about the farm and program please go to:
www.gagel.nl and www.valleyofthepossible.com
or email: erf@gagel.nl



About

Gagel Farm is a beautiful 45ha regenerative farm operating in a holistic context in Lochem, the Netherlands. The team is creating a landscape full of life: plants, animals, microbes and people whom are all given space to grow and work together on a thriving local food system. With 9 business lines: garden, orchard, tree nursery, animals, courses, activities, camping, catering and shop, they are not only working on a resilient company with beautiful regenerative products, but also on a resilient landscape for future generations. Gagel Farm brings together local, national and European farmers, citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, artists and policy makers to meet each other in ways of regeneration.

Valley of the Possible is an independent Dutch cultural nonprofit founded in 2018 that offers artists, scientists and other thinkers and makers a place to reconnect with nature, and to provide time and space for research and artistic development. Valley of the Possible fosters new perspectives on the relationship with our planet through regenerative and interdisciplinary exchange. After almost 5 years of working from the Cañon del Blanco, a remote and secluded valley in Wallmapu in Southern Chile, we are now returning home to the Netherlands at Gagel Farm.

Members of the Jury:

- Anne van Leeuwen - co-founder of Gagel Farm, regenerative farmer responsible for storytelling, farm animals and network, co-founder of Bodemzicht Farm and Foundation
- Daan Houwers - co-founder of Gagel Farm, regenerative farmer responsible for our tree nursery and on the ground operations
- Ricardo Cano Mateo - co-founder of Gagel Farm, regenerative farmer responsible for holistic design and planning, co-founder of Bodemzicht Farm and Foundation

Team

- Anne van Leeuwen - initiator, jury member, on site guidance, introduction to regeneration & landscape
- Daan Houwers - jury member, on site guidance, introduction to farm operations & landscape
- Ricardo Cano Mateo - jury member, coaching, introduction to farm management & landscape
- Helen Weeres - initiator, pre-selection candidates, coordination and development, copywriter
- Mirla Klijn - co-developer and online communications
- Olaf Boswijk - co-developer, coordination, strategy and development



Gemeenschapsboerderij 't Gagel Coöperatie
Gageldijk 3
7241 RJ Lochem

erf@gagel.nl
gagel.nl

