NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS / LAND-SEEKER PROFILE

The Emberbound Cove

A regenerative working farm with a long-term artisan, education and rural community vision

Our vision

Emberbound Cove is a proposed working farm and rural maker community seeking a permanent home in the North Carolina mountains. The first priority is to establish responsible, income-producing agriculture and steward the land well. Over time, complementary artisan businesses, skill-sharing programs and affordable creative residencies would grow alongside the farm.

The project is in the land-search and pre-launch planning stage. Development will depend on property suitability, practical financing, permits, community partnerships and demonstrated operating capacity.

What we intend to cultivate

Food & crops	Market gardens, vegetables, culinary and medicinal herbs, cut flowers, specialty annual trial crops, microgreens and gourmet mushrooms.
Perennial systems	Climate-appropriate orchards, berries, native food-forest plantings and maple syrup production where an existing suitable maple stand supports it.
Animals	Egg production from chickens and ducks; rabbits and goats where facilities allow. Meat cattle, permitted dairy production and horses are longer-range possibilities, subject to pasture, welfare, processing and financing feasibility.
Stewardship	Soil health, cover crops, composting, managed grazing, native pollinator habitat, woodland care, riparian protection, solar energy and appropriately designed rainwater collection.

What kind of land we are seeking

We are most interested in usable, financeable mountain farmland in Ashe, Alleghany and neighboring western North Carolina counties. We are flexible on total acreage: a smaller property with good soils, buildings and infrastructure may be a stronger fit than a larger undeveloped tract.

- Practical access, reliable water, suitable soils and sufficient sunlight for near-term food production.
- Potential for pasture, woodland stewardship, orchard development and/or maple production as the land allows.
- Existing farm buildings, a livable residence, fencing or permitted utilities are welcome but not mandatory.
- A realistic path to lawful future agricultural education, small markets, artisan spaces and housing, subject to local approvals.

The goal is a long-term purchase or viable land-access arrangement, not a request for donated land. Suitability and financing remain subject to due diligence.

A PRACTICAL PATH FROM FARM TO COMMUNITY

Seven-year outlook

A phased vision—not a promise that every project launches on a fixed schedule

How we would grow

Year 1	Acquire suitable land; test soils and water; repair essential infrastructure; pilot vegetables, herbs, microgreens, mushrooms and poultry where ready; inventory maples and fruit-growing sites.
Year 2	Expand crops and egg production with proven demand; plant first orchard and pollinator areas; improve irrigation and composting; host limited educational visits if permitted.
Year 3	Develop specialty annual trials, maple or woodland products where feasible, and local farm-sales relationships; pilot skill-sharing workshops and seasonal maker markets.
Year 4	Strengthen orchards, small livestock and pasture systems as capacity allows; develop initial guild or maker spaces only when independently funded and legally permitted.
Year 5	Grow established farm enterprises and value-added partnerships; explore small-scale creative residencies and additional workshops with appropriate housing approvals.
Year 6	Consider additional grazing animals, meat or dairy partnerships and larger-scale renewable systems only with sufficient staff, pasture, permits and proven economics.
Year 7	Operate a mature diversified farm with recurring markets, community learning and expanded artisan opportunities; evaluate a licensed bakery and community tavern as separately financed future amenities.

A community rooted in land stewardship

The larger Cove vision includes guild-led education, artist and maker workspaces, local markets, apprenticeships and longer-term creative residencies. Resident artists would retain the proceeds from their own work. Future gathering spaces, shared meals, a bakery and a tavern would only be developed with appropriate permits and separate resources. Farm viability and environmental responsibility remain the first priorities.

How we approach development

Each phase will be evaluated against real production results, water and soil capacity, legal permissions, animal welfare, accessibility, operating costs and financial resilience. Harvested rainwater would be used only for appropriate purposes; food handling and drinking water would rely on tested, compliant systems. The plan is designed to adapt to the land, rather than force the land to match an idealized drawing.

Connect with us

If you have farmland available for purchase or a long-term land-access opportunity that could support a phased working farm, we would welcome a conversation through our NC FarmLink land-seeker profile.

THE EMBERBOUND COVE • A proposed project • Property-specific feasibility and all business activities remain subject to approvals.