

Ridgeland Harvest Internship Program 2011

Overview

Our farming internship is a hands-on learning experience, with the main objective of learning about all aspects of running a diverse farm. Please consider that farming is a way of life, not just a vocation. By entering into this internship, you are committing yourself to a way of life which demands more than most other occupations.

Vegetable farming is inherently challenging – physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially. We intend this internship to be an intense, intimate, immersion experience. You will often spend the better part of six days a week with the same 3-6 people, and working with our family. Our children are involved with most farm activities, so patience, humor and respect for children is strictly required. Farm work will consume the bulk of your time and energy – the basics of getting yourself clean, fed and rested will consume most of what time remains. It is important and essential to have your priorities clear.

Qualifications

- Excellent verbal communication and people skills required
- You must work carefully and follow instructions
- You must work quickly and enthusiastically
- Ability to live in rustic living conditions & cook for yourself
- The position requires physical farm work, and you must be able to lift 50 lbs repeatedly; to bend, squat, and kneel for extended periods; and to work outdoors regardless of weather and insects.
- Someone/couple with a positive attitude, determination to complete a task, and who enjoys working with others will be the best fit for our farm.

Description

1. Full time commitment to sharing in the farm-work from mid-May to mid-November. An average work week is 6 days/week: Monday-Saturday. Work-hours change according to the season and the needs of the farm. A typical workday is from 7 am - 6 pm with a 1 hour lunch. Please consider that farm work is not governed by clocking in and clocking out, but by tasks that need to be completed. Interns receive a weekly salary of \$285 paid every two weeks.

2. Educational sessions will be held 1-2 times a month for in-depth discussion. Topics will be based upon the Intern needs and areas of interest and will formally be decided each month. Examples are:

- a. Market farm planning and planting for greenhouse & field
- b. Use of farm equipment and safety
- c. Perennial crop management
- d. Planning, organizing and managing a 200-300 member CSA
- e. Soil health: fertility, cover crops, weed management, tillage practices
- f. Livestock and pasture management for poultry, hogs and cattle
- g. Crop health: irrigation, pest and disease control, crop rotation
- h. Post-harvest handling of vegetables and packing shed coordination
- i. Harvest planning: crop scouting, yield estimates

3. Each intern will be required to help in one specific aspect of the farm that will be mutually decided upon. Examples are: livestock care, tool management, greenhouse care, etc.

4. Meals are on your own. Excess vegetables, fruits, herbs and other farm goods will be available. A propane cook stove, fire pit and an assortment of cooking utensils are provided.
5. Interns are expected to participate in on-farm tours and events. Several visits to other local farms will be arranged, once the farmers and intern discuss other areas of interest (i.e. mushroom, apiary, fruit production, etc.)
6. Housing is rustic: a screened in platform tent with wood stove. Refrigeration is available at the packing shed, though a cooler with ice is more practically used. A bathroom/shower with electricity and running water is accessible at the packing shed. Hauling water to the tent site is required (water jugs are provided). Laundry facilities are shared at the farmhouse.
7. Additional rules/policies for the intern will be supplied once accepted. Care and maintenance of housing, equipment, tools, etc. is required.

Surrounding Area

Ridgeland Harvest is located in the beautiful hills of the Driftless area of southwestern Wisconsin. Our farm overlooks the valleys, with a gentle breeze always blowing on our ridge top farm. We are 12-miles from the nearest town, Viroqua, a small but hip town with good music, food, art and conversation. Nearby rivers and parks are accessible for hiking, canoeing and kayaking. Curving country roads provide nice scenery for a walk, jog or bike ride.

How to apply

If you think that Ridgeland Harvest may be a good fit for you than we encourage you to apply. Please supply us with the completed application (following pages). After we review your information, we will contact you to set up an in-person interview.

Ridgeland Harvest LLC

2011 Internship Application Form

About Yourself:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Education (list last education phase, degree, current education) _____

Date of Birth _____

Citizen of U.S. Yes No = Visa# _____

Briefly describe yourself (interests, hobbies, goals, etc.)

Work History: Describe last 3 places of employment

1. Company Name:

Contact Person:

Address/City/State/Zip:

Phone#:

Date of employment

Main Job Duties:

2. Company Name:

Contact Person:

Address/City/State/Zip:

Phone#:

Date of employment

Main Job Duties:

3. Company Name:

Contact Person:

Address/City/State/Zip:

Phone#:

Date of employment

Main Job Duties:

Short Answer Questions:

1. Why do you want to become an intern at Ridgeland Harvest? What do you hope to learn?

2. What specifically do you want to learn about organic farming?

3. What education, training or experience do you have with farming or organic farming?

4. List 5 of your greatest strengths and 3 of your weaknesses

5. Do you have any other related work experiences or skills that may be used on the farm? (Example: skills in carpentry, mechanical work, cooking, writing, photography, etc.)

6. What is your favorite book on food politics, organic food or organic farming?

7. What is your favorite thing to cook?

Additional Questions:

1. Do you have a vehicle for personal transportation purposes?

2. Do you have any allergies or injuries that we should be aware of?

3. What are the best times to reach you by phone for an interview?

4. List 3 references

a) NAME:
PHONE #
EMAIL
RELATION

b) NAME:
PHONE #
EMAIL
RELATION

c) NAME:
PHONE #
EMAIL
RELATION

Send Completed Application to:

Email: rhavest@mwt.net or

Mail: Ridgeland Harvest, E5538 Nelson Road, Viroqua, WI 54665