

Mattawoman Creek Farms Apprentice Program

Overview

The Mattawoman Creek Farms apprentice program is designed to teach participants to organically grow vegetable crops on a commercial scale and to operate a farming business. We seek candidates who want to organically farm as an occupation upon completion of their apprenticeships. Mattawoman Creek Farms is currently transitioning more acreage to organic production and is interested in offering opportunities to farm portions of that land to apprentice program graduates.

Description of Work

The apprenticeship program is designed to provide organic farm education and work experience in such areas as:

- Soil building
- Greenhouse operations
- Tillage
- Transplanting seedlings
- Seed planting
- Crop rotation
- Weed control
- Pest control
- Conservation practices
- Harvesting
- Post harvest handling
- Shipping and delivery
- Equipment use and maintenance
- Record keeping
- Farm maintenance
- Farm management

Work Schedule

Workweek hours vary based upon weather and time of year, and range from 4 to 6 days per week. Generally, there is no work between Christmas and the latter part of January. The apprentice program is designed to take an average of 1½ years to complete, with a spring start date.

Compensation

Starting pay is up to \$1000 a month depending upon prior work experience. Pay increases and bonuses are performance based. During the growing season, surplus produce is generally available to apprentices for personal consumption at no charge.

What is Expected of You

As a farm apprentice, you are expected to be an honest, enthusiastic, and committed worker, to be interested in organic farming, to be willing and able to physically work hard, and to have a driver's license with a good record. You are responsible for your own housing and transportation to and from the farm. There are normally several housing rental options within a few miles of the farm if you do not currently reside in the area.