

Old Field Farm, Cornwallville, NY Farm Manager Job Description



General Description: Old Field Farm explores the interaction and mutual benefit of art and agricultural practices, where a diversified culture for both plants and animals can thrive. Old Field Farm/Art and Agriculture consists of 160 acres of forest, wild bee pastures, indigenous and cultivated mushrooms, habitat for goats, chickens, pigs, ducks; vegetable and fruit gardens. Integral to the farm is the greenhouse, ceramic studio and painting studio.

Our intention is to transition to having a thoughtful, full-time effort made towards every facet of the vegetable and livestock operation. We are looking for someone full-time who has ample experience (three years at the minimum) overseeing a diverse operation, a solid background in farm record keeping and budgeting, as well as managing farm interns and volunteers. In addition to the Farm Manager, there is a Market Manager who will be coordinating sales of product and our Bootleg Buying Club, held weekly in Manhattan.

We are reviewing all applications from August 1st through September 1st. The position is slated to begin in early September 2011.

Key Qualifications:

- Strong understanding of the Catskills area land and agricultural practices
- Significant experience working with commercial farm operations
- Prior experience with a wide range of vegetable crops to be cultivated;
- Experience in Northeast agriculture and relationships within the New York state agricultural community preferred;
- Knowledge of organic/sustainable agriculture practices;
- Must have strong understanding of animal husbandry, with at least two years' experience in multi-species animal agriculture, especially with management-intensive grazing;
- Organizational and team building & management skills;
- Farm equipment operational skills, including tractors;
- Safe operation and skill with basic farm tools such as chain saws and brush mowers;
- Basic knowledge of record-keeping and financial aspects of agriculture;

- Ability to work independently and be comfortable working long, non-traditional hours, particularly during peak season, and in all weather;
- Ability to perform physical activity: lifting (up to 100 lbs. assisted); carrying (50 lbs.);
- Familiarity with Excel, Word, Powerpoint;
- Applicants must have a valid driver's license.

Responsibilities for Farm Manager

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Manage the implementation of overall plan and vision for Old Field Farm;
- Oversee all daily production activities, including delegating daily farm activities;
- Oversee all livestock responsibilities, including but not limited to: expanding flock of 60 diversified laying hens and roosters; 7 Kashmir goats; 2 beehives; and 10 Tamworth and Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs;
- Implement and manage compost, greenhouse, plant propagation and irrigation systems;
- Maintain all facets of vegetable production in the greenhouse, and outdoor fields;
- Manage year-round production planning;
- Execute appropriate crop rotations, cover cropping, soil fertility management and composting programs;
- Manage pest control plan and irrigation;
- Maintain audit trail for organic certification, this includes keeping up with propagation, greenhouse and field journals as well as market logs (should happen whether striving to be organic or not);
- Be available for brainstorming and problem solving with owners Anne Kennedy and Peter Nadin and other farm personnel;
- Tractor operation skills including disking, plowing, tilling, cultivating, bucket work and more;
- Ability to communicate mechanical issues with mechanic;
- Responsible for periodic analysis of propagation and production systems for progression in overall farm production;
- Responsible for all aspects of harvest, processing and packing of farm products;
- Maintain detailed recorded keeping of all harvested produce as well as manage all production budgets.
- Able to provide detailed analysis of production records to meet marketing needs

The ideal candidate's skills might also include:

- Welding and basic metal fabrication;
- Farm and small engine maintenance, troubleshooting and repair;
- Meat cutting and poultry processing;
- Carpentry, plumbing and electrical aptitudes;
- Good communications and public speaking.

Responsibilities will evolve based on areas of need and aspects of the farm that you wish to learn about. This is not a complete list but a general overview of the positions responsibilities.

Compensation: TBD based on experience. Additionally, there is the opportunity for the Farm Manager to lease farmland for his/her own production.

Housing: There is housing available on-site.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and two work references to Artandagriculture [at] gmail.com