

Osprey Hill Farm

Internship Description

Background: Osprey Hill is an organically grown family farm located on the South Fork of the Nooksack River in Acme, WA. We've integrated some principles of Permaculture into our systems and we believe that diversity is truly the spice of our operation. Our production line includes a grass-based sustainable livestock operation (eggs, chicken meat, duck meat, holiday turkeys, and lamb) as well as a 5 acre annual vegetable plot, plus a small orchard, berry patch, vineyard, and several hardy perennials crops. We operate a 60 member CSA, sell a large volume of crops to our Food Bank, and distribute wholesale crops through a variety of avenues. As we enter into our 13th season we continue to expand our infrastructure and explore ways to create efficiencies and close the loop within our production system.

General Internship Information:

Duration of Internship: Interns agree to participate in the internship program for the full season (March-October) after a two week trial period. Interns accept that vacation time is extremely limited during the internship and must be prearranged.

Experience: The intent of the internship is to help fast-track individuals who are pursuing a career and lifestyle in farming. We give preference to those with a minimum of one season of farming, animal husbandry, or organic agriculture experience.

Qualifications: Successful candidates must be highly motivated, able to perform physical labor that is sometimes repetitive, independent workers in good physical condition (able to lift 50 lbs), willing to work outdoors in the elements, have a positive attitude and a sincere desire to learn. Positive traits also include self-knowledge of goals and life direction as well as the ability to make and keep commitments. This is a hands-on internship. You will get dirty every day!

Job Description: 4 days per week, interns will have the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills through hands-on experience at Osprey Hill Farm including:

- Starting seeds in flats, hardening off, and transplanting
- Direct seeding in the field
- Various modes of cultivation and weed control: small hand tools, large hand tools, mechanized tools, flaming, and mulching
- Working with drip tape and over head irrigation
- Pruning techniques for annuals and perennials
- Various mulch materials for different purposes
- Composting, soil amendments, cover crops, and soil fertility
- Pest control
- Season extension and crop protection including row cover, low tunnel, high tunnel, and greenhouse
- Fence building, repairs, and other construction projects
- Harvesting, cleaning, and packing product for sale
- Animal care and pasture management

Osprey Hill Farm does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion or educational background.

Educational Opportunities: New this year, we will be integrating our farm internship program with the educational curriculum that Cloud Mountain Farm Center has developed. There is a tuition for these classes. One day each week, interns will commute to the learning center to take part in the internship education program including field trips, workshops, and lectures. In addition to these educational experiences, interns can expect to commit 3 to 6 hours a week to some homework and a full reading program to be completed on their own in time with the curriculum.

Compensation & Living Arrangements

Stipend: Interns are paid \$700 per month plus room and full utilities. \$700 bonus paid at completion of program. Bonus is all or nothing. Interns pay tuition for the educational program. Some scholarships are available. Please inquire.

Meals: Produce & protein from the farm plus staple items (laundry soap, toilet paper, light bulbs, cleaning supplies, coffee beans, and green tea) are provided.

Housing: Private bedroom in fully furnished farm house located 2.5 miles from the farm. Shared living spaces including bathroom, living room, kitchen, and laundry facilities. Free Wifi is available at the nearby Cafe or the public library 10 minutes north of the house. Upkeep and maintenance of personal space is the responsibility of the intern.

Pets are not allowed. We cannot provide long-term housing for friends, children, or partners that aren't helping on the farm. Interns are responsible for their own transportation.

Schedule: Interns are expected to work 4 days per week on the farm (approximately 32-36 hours) in addition to attending class at the Cloud Mountain Farm Center 1 day per week. Hours will vary slightly according to the work load and weather.

Interns are expected to supply their own work boots, clothing, sunscreen, insect repellent, eye protection, and gloves and take appropriate precautions to work safely.

Health Care: Interns are responsible for carrying their own health insurance and for their own medical expenses. Evidence of health coverage is required prior to starting an internship. Osprey Hill Farm is not required to provide Workers Compensation insurance. Additionally, smoking is not allowed in the intern housing or while working on the farm.

Additional Information: We are looking for (2) highly motivated and committed interns for the 2017 season. Interns will assist in the daily needs of the farm. Internship may lead to full time, permanent employment.

To apply: For an application or to learn more please visit us online at www.ospreyhillfarm.com

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