



2024 Vegetable Farm Apprenticeship Position Description

Apprenticeship Summary:

The Vegetable Farm Apprenticeship is designed to provide experience to individuals pursuing a career in vegetable farming, especially those who are experiencing barriers to doing so. The apprentice will work closely with the farm and field managers and become familiar and experienced with all aspects involved in growing vegetables on an acre or less in a short season climate.

Wolf Ridge Farm at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is a nonprofit vegetable production and education farm in Finland, Minnesota. We are offering two seasonal apprenticeships in 2024. This position is educational, meaning that it focuses on providing on-the-job training for future vegetable producers. The 2024 season will be a pilot project, funded in part by North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. Because some elements of the program are still in the testing phase, we value timely and direct feedback, and will use pre-, mid-, and postseason self evaluations and program evaluations to measure the apprentices' overall experience and individual learning goals.

We are adopting the [Market Gardener Masterclass](#) as our curricular supplement to daily on-the-job training. With 50+ learning modules, videos, and tech sheets on topics from crop planning to harvest with individual crop specifics, we'll explore best practices in the market farming sector that can make vegetable production a viable career. Other numerous educational resources are available: access to our market farming library, Growing for Market magazine, crop and harvest manual templates, regional farmer potlucks, institutional market access, Sustainable Farming Association and UMN field days, and training in farm-based education programming and curricula.

This is a great position for someone who likes to work hard, challenge themselves, keep a fast pace, and have fun getting the job done. Wolf Ridge Farm strives for a high level of organization and food safety using organic farming practices in order for its farmers to operate at their fullest capacity to produce the healthiest food possible.

On the Job Training includes but is not limited to:

- Seed-starting and hardening transplants for field and tunnel growing
- High tunnel maintenance and optimization
- Cover crop timing and management
- Construction with conventional and natural materials
- Preparing beds and amending soil
- Direct seeding and transplanting in high tunnels and field plots
- Maintaining market farming tools and materials
- Cultivating, flaming, and weeding with hand tools
- Controlling pests and disease using OMRI approved inputs

- Harvesting, washing, storing, and processing of vegetables
- Data collection and analysis that will benefit the farm's successive performance.
- Preparing deliveries to markets
- Building on-farm compost using food waste from the dining hall
- Managing a small flock of laying hens
- Giving farm tours to Wolf Ridge school groups, campers, and the general public
- Assisting and leading student and camper farm task groups
- Wood-fired pizza preparation and operation

Requirements:

- One season of annual vegetable farming experience with the drive to continue building on current skills, with the goal of vegetable farming as a career in the near future
- Experience with organic farming practices including: pest and disease control, season extension strategies, harvest, wash and pack, and food safety practices
- Experience with market farming tools such as broadforks, oscillating hoes, push seeders, and wheel hoes
- Basic understanding of food systems
- Appreciation for fresh, nutrient dense food and the will, drive, and dedication to farm that food efficiently and effectively while maintaining a healthy farm ecosystem
- High comfort level with kids of all ages
- Team player with leadership and time management skills
- Positive attitude, respectful nature, and willingness to work and live well(if living on site) with a diverse group of people
- 21 years of age and a high school graduate or equivalent
- In good physical condition, able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds
- Drivers license and/or reliable transportation to and from Wolf Ridge Farm
- Position conditional upon acceptable background screening

Work Schedule and Compensation:

- Seasonal 20 weeks on the job training from May 13, 2024 to September 27, 2024
- Averaged 35 hours per week(5 7-hour days) with possible holidays and weekends
- Bi-weekly salary of \$1,050 (based on a \$15 hourly wage)
- A food and housing option with private room on the main campus can be deducted pre-tax at \$860/month
- Access to farm grown produce
- Use of provided mountain bikes to travel from main campus to the farm
- Access to swimming beach and canoes on Wolf Lake
- Use of Wolf Ridge gear for outdoor adventures

For more information:

Please contact Sarah Mayer, Farm Manager, at 218-220-0194 or sarah.mayer@wolf-ridge.org

To apply:

Please fill out an [online application](#).