



WOLFE'S NECK FOR AGRICULTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT CENTER

Fruit & Vegetable Farming Apprenticeship

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Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment seeks to transform our relationship with farming and food for a healthier planet. On 626 acres of diverse ecosystems, we farm, educate, conduct agricultural research on soils and climate change, and invite visitors to engage with the food system and the role we all can play in building a more just and sustainable future. The farm is a beautiful and inspiring place for visitors of all ages to learn and play. We offer a diverse number of ways to engage with agriculture and the food system, including numerous education programs, a community garden, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, a Farm Store and Farm Café, an oceanfront campground, several seasonal community events and festivals, and our Organic Dairy Research and Farmer Training Program. Our farm includes a 60-head organic dairy, small livestock, and diversified fruit and vegetable production. Fruit & Vegetable Farming apprentices help care for 5.5 acres of MOFGA certified diversified fruit and vegetable production, and collaborate with our educational programming.

Our production includes year-round high tunnel greenhouses, small orchards, perennials, educational raised beds, and a community garden. We provide our CSA members with 18 weeks of organic produce and flowers, as well as stock an on-site farm store. We are a working educational farm that enjoys over 30,000 visitors every year, so a willingness to engage with the public is essential.

This is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring farmers with little to no experience who are interested in farming, diversifying farm revenues through programming and value-added production, and agricultural education. The Fruit & Vegetable Farming apprentices are supervised by our Fruit & Vegetable Farm Manager and Educator. Apprentices will leave this program with a better understanding of varying fruit and vegetable markets and production styles, as well as hands-on equipment experience.

We are seeking 2 individuals for the apprenticeship program: May 1 – November 1 (dates are somewhat negotiable on case-by-case basis)

Spring/Summer/Fall Tasks May Include:

- Preparing raised beds and planting (raking, laying irrigation, planting)
- Seedling transplants in propagation house
- Managing crops in high tunnels (seeding, transplanting, pruning, etc.)
- Help manage volunteer groups & create educational experiences
- Aiding in value-added production (canning, preserving, etc.)
- Assist in creating weekly CSA newsletter
- Tractor training and introduction to equipment maintenance
- Crop planning and successions, record keeping (classroom time)
- Weeding, seeding, and harvesting to meet CSA and market demands
- Organizing and packing wholesale orders and donations
- Planting and managing cover crops

Qualifications & Requirements

Comfortability working with youth and the public. Commitment to full term of apprenticeship. Strong work ethic, attention to detail, and ability to work quickly. Must work well with a team, and also be willing to work alone. Friendly and passionate about seasonal and sustainable food, must be able to lift at least 50lbs as heavy lifting is a daily practice. Good physical health with ability to work long days outdoors during the summer. Valid driver's license is required. You will work in all kinds of weather conditions including rain, cold, sun, and breezy with partial clouds. Farm work can be extremely rewarding, but it also can be tedious, exhausting and frustrating. A good sense of humor and a positive outlook on life is always appreciated.

Expectations

Apprentices are expected to be punctual, hard-working, courteous, kind, and professional. Must have a passion for sustainable farming and interest/experience in sharing this passion through education. Labor will be physically demanding, and hours will be flexible in both directions (e.g. there will be times when we've powered through transplanting and will get off early to go swimming and other times when we put in long hours to harvest all the strawberries). Farming is not a 9-5 job, and there will need to be an understanding of the demands of the bigger picture. At least 40 hours and a 5-day work week will be expected. A work plan will be reviewed during a weekly meeting, and there will be regular check-ins. Following training, apprentices will be expected to perform some tasks independently. Apprentices are expected to be comfortable performing on-farm tasks when managers are absent.

Compensation includes:

- Stipend included
- Potential for on-site communal housing
- Free fruits and vegetables
- 25% discount for on-farm products (beef, pork, chicken, eggs)
- Free usage of bikes, kayaks, and canoes
- Discounted oceanfront camping for friends and family (based on availability)

To Apply

Send a completed application and resume with "Fruit & Vegetable Farming Apprenticeship" in the subject line to ebakerwacks@wolfesneck.org. Applications will be reviewed until **Dec 31**, and selected candidates will be informed by mid-January.

Equity Statement

Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment supports a more equitable and just food system for all and works towards creating a more inclusive farm learning and working environment for beginning farmers that are historically and currently under-supported in agriculture. This includes but is not limited to women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, veterans, low-income individuals, people of diverse religious and non-religious affiliations, immigrants, and asylum seekers.

Non-Discriminatory Selection Process

Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment, in accordance with federal Equal Opportunity Laws does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, sexual orientation including gender identity or expression, veteran status, or physical or mental disability in the hiring of its employees. Applicants are selected based on their ability to perform the essential functions of the job, prior related work experience, and references from previous employers.



WOLFE'S NECK CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Apprenticeship Application 2021

Please answer each question carefully and concisely.

Submit completed application, along with current resume, to:

ebakerwacks@wolfesneck.org

Name (First and Last):

Date of Birth:

Email Address:

Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

How did you hear about Wolfe's Neck Center and our apprenticeship program?

Do you have a driver's license?

Will you have your own transportation?

The 2021 apprenticeship requires a full-time commitment from May 1st through November 1st.
Does this work for you?

Do you have any prior injuries to your back, knees, etc that may limit your ability to do farm work?

What are your goals in becoming a farm apprentice? In other words, why do you want to farm?

Why do you want to apprentice at WNC, in particular?

There are many aspects of farming that will be part of your experience, which interests you the most?



WOLFE'S NECK CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

What are some challenges you anticipate?

Describe your experience with physical labor (working long hours outdoors) in all weather, and why you want to commit to a season of it. If none, how do you think you will handle it?

Describe relevant experience/passion for local food systems.

Describe your experience (if any) working as an educator, with volunteer groups, or children.

What do you feel you can offer the farm and your fellow co-workers?

If you have any additional skills/experience you would like to share, please do so here.

Other considerations:

Will you be able to travel to the farm for an interview? (We highly recommend an in-person visit, but also recognize this may not be possible for everyone.)

What is a skill you have or a topic you feel confident about that you might want to lead a community workshop on while here?

Please share three interesting things about yourself.



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RESUME

Please attach an up-to-date resume that includes:

- schools you have attended and/or major areas of study or training.
- dates and descriptions of relevant work experience, both paid and volunteer.

relevant skills

REFERENCES

Please list the name and contact info for 3 references who have supervised you in some capacity.

Reference 1

Name:

Affiliation (name of company, organization, school, etc):

Relationship to you:

Email:

Phone:

Reference 2

Name:

Affiliation (name of company, organization, school, etc):

Relationship to you:

Email:

Phone:

Reference 3

Name:

Affiliation (name of company, organization, school, etc):

Relationship to you:

Email:

Phone:

Please answer each question carefully and concisely. We read these applications closely.

Submit completed application, along with current resume, to:

ebakerwacks@wolfesneck.org