

## 2007 Farm Application

Farm Name: Artful Acre

Farmer(s): Tegan & Leland Wong-Daugherty & Allan Brewer

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Number of apprentices sought: 1

Our farm can host couples/small family: Yes  No  (on a case by case basis)

We are interested in hosting a Farming Organically Workshop. Yes  No

### Section A: Farm Description

1. **Area Description:** Describe the area around your farm (ie. landscape, local attractions) and the community in which you're located.

The Artful Acre is located in South Knowlesville, walking distance from Falls Brook Centre, and 6 km from the church, the Women's Institute community hall & new play structure that make up the quiet rural hub of the village of Knowlesville. We are about 15 km from Glassville (post office, general store), 30 km from Florenceville and Hartland (post office, grocery and other stores), about 50 km from Woodstock (closest farm market). Our home is at the base of Skedaddle Ridge and there are nature trails that head out our backyard into a combination of natural hardwood forests and softwood plantations.

2. **Farm Description:** Include a brief history, crops or livestock, size of farm, main activities, etc.

We have twenty -100sqft raised beds, which make up our main gardens in production. A new growing area following a traditional Hidatsa approach is under preparation for its first season in 2007. We have just purchased new land with 12 acres of hayfield and 37 acres of mixed woods that we plan to survey this summer for potential residential clusters for a South Knowlesville Eco-neighbourhood. We will be breaking ground on this new property this spring, starting orchards and a small area for market gardens. Garden crops include mixed summer vegetables, and winter storage crops. We usually have a small flock of laying hens, although we lost our flock last fall to a fox and will be starting from chicks this spring. Our food is primarily used for sustenance, however we do grow both garlic & save seeds for a small seed company in the area. Also in 2006 we had garden surplus, so marketing this surplus will be a potential applied research project for an apprentice.

Artful Acre is powered by Solar energy. Off-grid living provides both the challenge of conserving electricity and the opportunity to be in control of our energy supply. We will be building a timber-frame strawbale infill home this year in addition to expanding the gardens, so there will be lots of excitement in store! We are also kept busy raising our two young children Leona (3) and Michael (6 months).

3. **Experience:** Describe your own experience/skills as a farmer (ie. number of years, types of operations, involvement in related groups/organizations).



Leland & Tegan have used raised bed bio-intensive gardens for the last 10 years for home vegetable production. At first all our beds were double dug, a labour intensive process. Over the last 4 years, we've adopted a lasagna-mulch approach for opening up new beds. We have both been avid seed-savers over the years, but are now primarily focused on seed saving of a few heritage varieties of tomatoes, squash and beans. In 2005, we had a stall making organic fruit smoothies with solar power at the new Grafton Farm Market.

Allan Brewer is a graduate of the organic apprenticeship program from 2006, when he managed a small CSA & market garden. He brings an avid interest in herbs, both cultivated and wild. He will be starting the new gardens on the Eco-neighbourhood property.

4. **Farming Philosophy:** Include info on why you farm organically, and why you do it in the Maritimes.

We feel that people can improve their quality of life through organic food production. Small-scale bio-intensive production for us is a way to grow most of our own vegetable needs on as small an area as possible, it is also a means of building soil depth and tilth. We believe that food production should be for local consumption and that it is a vital part of revitalizing the local economy. We try to meet all of our food needs from our own gardens and by supporting producers in our bioregion.

5. **Time:** Will you be on the farm full-time for the apprenticeship season (May-mid October)?

All of us will be on the farm full-time for the season. Although we will also be doing other activities other than farming such as home construction, environmental mapping of the Eco-neighbourhood site and Leland will be engaged at times with his paid-work as a graphic designer / illustrator.

### **Section B: Work Description**

6. **Job Description:** Describe the jobs that your apprentice will be expected to perform on your farm.

The apprentice will be working in our gardens from planting to harvest. Tasks will include soil preparation, compost building, pest and weed monitoring, food preservation, orchard care and more. There will also be opportunities to help with strawbale construction, trail building, planting trees and learning about the natural flora of the Acadian forest.

7. **Work Hours:** What is the average work day (hours) and work week? Include when an apprentice can have time off.

The work week will be 40 hours which can vary with the season. Time will be generally split between working with Tegan & Leland on existing gardens & projects and working with Allan to start and manage the market garden.

8. **Compensation:** Are you offering a stipend or living allowance to apprentices, and under what conditions?

We offer a small monthly allowance to cover any personal needs. However, most of the apprentices needs could come from the farm.

### **Section C: Mentorship and Learning**

9. **Learning opportunities:** List any learning opportunities your farm can offer. (e.g. tractor work, animal husbandry, seed saving, farm market stalls, CSA management, etc.)

**Raised bed gardening, no-till garden preparation, seed saving, bread making, strawbale construction, off-grid living, Ecovillage dreaming and more!**

10. **Experience:** What is your experience in on-farm mentorship and instruction?

**We have been a WWOOF host for several years. We have not had a full 6 month apprentice before but look forward to the experience.**

11. **Style:** How will you provide instruction and training to an apprentice? Describe your teaching and mentorship style.

**Hands-on learning and one-on-one mentorship will be provided. Working together is a great way to share knowledge and skills. We also expect that learning will be a two-way street with the apprentice bringing their life-experience to our neck of the woods.**

12. **Resources:** Do you have any farming books, magazines, newsletters, etc. on the farm available to the apprentice?

**We have books on seed saving, natural farming, bio-intensive farming, soil building ect... We also have books related to co-housing, land trusts and sustainable community design.**

13. **Mid-season Exchange:** Are you open to hosting a mid-season (July/August) exchange with an apprentice from another farm?

**Yes.**

#### **Section D: On-Farm Research**

14. **Projects:** List and briefly describe 3 possible on-farm research projects you are interested in:

- a. **Small scale grain production: planting, harvesting and threshing techniques**
- b. **Agroforestry & Analog Forestry techniques applied to small scale food production**
- c. **Organic land management mapping: soil test, determining slopes, drainage and determining optimum crops and cropping practices for the 12-acre Eco-neighbourhood site.**

#### **Section E: Life on the Farm**

15. **Living Arrangements:** Describe the housing/accommodation and food arrangement you provide to apprentices. Include bathing/washing and laundry facilities.

**For a single apprentice, we have a solar powered small camper with own heater stove. Meals are shared in our house with the family. For bathing we have a solar shower and a bathtub inside. There is both an electric washing machine and a hand-cranked washing machine available for use.**

**For an apprentice with small family or partner, we would have to make arrangements for your accommodation close by to meet your needs. Eventually we will have ideal**

**accommodations (our current home) but likely not until near the end of the season or next year, but for us an apprentice with a family would be wonderful and we will work to find a suitable place.**

- 16. Transportation:** Do you provide transportation for apprentices to get off the farm, including monthly workshops?

**Yes. Bicycles are available for use, however the apprentice is encouraged to bring their own transportation if possible. Transportation to monthly workshops will be arranged.**

- 17. Visitors:** Are visitors welcome? For how long? Are they expected to contribute to the farm during their stay?

**Visitors are welcome, although expected to help out with the added cooking and will need to bring their own tent.**

- 18. Leisure activities:** (List any leisure activities or opportunities available to apprentices. E.g. bike riding, nature trails nearby, town is 20 min away, annual family trip to cabin in October, etc.)

**Bike riding, nature trails, social gatherings with neighbours, swimming in the local brook, On June - Fiddlers on the Tobique (a canoe down the Tobique with fiddlers in toe!), Saturday Farm market in Woodstock, music jams and playing 'Memory' with Leona.**

#### **Section F: Getting Started**

- 19. Ideal Apprentice:** Describe your ideal apprentice below (the apprentice's own training goals, life experience, farming experience):

**The ideal apprentice is one that is excited about living in a rural area in the Maritimes. They are enthusiastic about growing things, exploring the natural world, cooking with whole ingredients and they like interacting with young children. It would also be an asset to be interested in the concept of Ecovillages, co-housing and land trusts. Past gardening experience is not required.**

- 20. Trial period:** Do you want an apprentice to visit and/or work on your farm before the final arrangements are made?

**If possible a visit to the farm would be great for both the apprentice and our family.**

- 21. Additional information:** (Is there anything else a person considering working on your farm needs to know?)

**No**