

2007 Farm Application

Farm Name: Murray Bunnett Family Farm

Farmer(s): Murray and Carolyn

Address:

118 Steeves Settlement Rd., Steeves Settlement, NB E4Z 2Y1

Phone: (506) 756-8261

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Number of apprentices sought: _____

Our farm can host couples/small family: Yes No _____

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.

We live in the country – about 16 km from Petitcodiac (village) and 30 km from Moncton (city).

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

Answered in #3.

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

I grew up farming with my father as a family farm. Growing up I had the opportunity to work alongside with my father and later my brothers. I now own my own farm which includes a hog operation – 100 sows (farrow to finish), laying hens and 100 acres crop land. We raise broilers and turkeys on pasture in the summer. We also market eggs, some pork, and meat kings (chickens) directly to customers.

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

We never liked the idea of using chemicals that are harmful, thus when the idea of using alternatives came to our attention, we quit using chemicals. It is nice to farm and know that you're looking after the soil and water resources without being harmful to them and our family.

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

Yes – we work full time on the farm.



Section B: Work Description

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

- **Feeding and caring for pigs and poultry**
- **Some fixing and maintenance**
- **Washing down and sweeping in the pig barn**
- **Firewood**
- **Some garden work**
- **Care and cleaning of the apprentice farm house**
- **Washing eggs**

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

- **Around 8-9 hours of work and instruction**
- **5-6 days/week – Sunday off**
- **Expect approx. 2 weeks of longer hours during harvest time**

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

We can be flexible and can be worked out on a one-to-one basis.

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.)

- **Animal husbandry (poultry and pigs)**
- **Basic animal nutrition**
- **Homeopathy**
- **Gardening**
- **Carpentry, basic welding, machinery maintenance**
- **Crop rotations**
- **Tractor driving**

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

We had an apprentice work with us for a season in 2006. We have been involved with the WWOOFing program for about 6 years which gives us ample opportunities to explain to newcomers about our organic farming practices with livestock and crops. We have given slideshow presentations and have talked to different groups about our farm.

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

We work side-by-side with the apprentice, showing and explaining while doing the job. Informal discussions at mealtimes.

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

We have a lot of books and materials on organic farming and practices. We also have internet access.

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

We are open to this idea. It would depend on the apprentices that are involved in the exchange.

Section D: On-Farm Research

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

- **Evaluating pigs growth on pasture. E.g. What % of diet can be obtained from forages? We did this last year but would like to make some changes:**
 - i. **Put younger pigs outside**
 - ii. **Add probiotics**
 - iii. **Provide more shelter**
 - iv. **Different feeder**

- **Garden trials using organic kelp fertilizer mix:**
 - i. **To help control cucumber beetle?**
 - ii. **Evaluate flavour?**

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.

- **An older farm house is available on-farm, complete with furniture, bedding, cookware, electric stove and fridge**
- **Complete with hydro and indoor plumbing**
- **Laundry facilities available in our home**
- **Basic food provided with option of sharing 1 or 2 meals per day with our family**
- **Sunday – day-off – responsible for making their own meals**

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

A ride will be provided for monthly workshops. A bike is available and rides are available to Petitcodiac at least once a week. Rides to Moncton (city) 1 or 2 times/month.

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

Yes, visitors are welcome for a short stay. We will give permission for each case.

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.)

We have access to miles and miles of easy walking trails. Closest shopping is 16 km away. We have a trampoline! Fundy National Park is a 1 hour drive away. We have a small library of books, tapes and magazines available on organic farming, and a big collection of movies.

Section F: Getting Started

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

- **Have a good work ethic**
- **Strong desire to learn and work**
- **Good physical health**
- **Have open communication**
- **Be able to fit into a family setting**
- **No farm experience needed**

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

Last year we did a 2 week trial period and then sat down with the apprentice and both had a chance to talk things over. Also at that time we discussed a stipend. It worked well for both parties.

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

No.