

2007 Farm Application

Farm Name: Christian Community

Farmer(s): Peter Gerber

Address: 576 Plymouth Rd., Richmond Corner, NB, E7M 5B1

Phone: N/A

Fax: N/A

E-mail: N/A

Number of apprentices sought: 1

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.

Situated in the gentle rolling hills of the St. John River Valley, approx. 5 miles from Woodstock, NB. We are surrounded by woods intermixed with farm fields. We are not far from Richmond Corner and Hwy 95. Nestled in an old yet not remote farming community.

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

We maintain approx. 35 acres of land under cultivation, plus a maple sugar woods and operation. We use sustainable, environmentally responsible practices, with no electricity or internal combustion engines. We use horse power for transportation, field work, grinding flour, feed etc. We maintain at least 75 hives of bees and cook maple syrup from 2200 taps. Cultivated crops are hay, wheat, oats, barley, corn and pasture. A large variety of vegetables and fruits are grown for most of our food needs as well as produce to sell at the farm gate and local markets. We have horses, cows, sheep, chickens etc. Main activities and learning experiences will be maple sugaring, beekeeping, vegetable gardening, food preserving, seed saving, raspberry and fruit production, animal husbandry, haymaking, grain threshing, woodcutting, field cultivation, horsemanship, butchering, soap making, etc. etc. in an intense, self-sufficient, wholesome lifestyle.

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

For close to 40 years I have been involved in many on farm experiences, learning skills in crop, vegetable and fruit production, dairying, hog farming, poultry and game bird operation, beef, sheep (for meat and breeding stock), horses, beekeeping (honey, pollination, Queen breeding), maple syrup, forest management, farm construction (carpentry cement construction, design), mechanics (repair and maintenance), feed and food production, etc. etc.

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

We believe we are stewards of what God has given us to use and live here with. We are responsible to dress and keep the earth, not abuse, pollute, exploit and destroy it. We and



those around us will be affected and harmed if we do not care for the land etc. On the other hand, the blessings are many. We feel the Maritimes gives the small farmer an easier chance with affordable land and resources.

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

Yes.

Section B: Work Description

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

Vegetable and fruit production, crop production and harvesting, marketing, animal husbandry, maple syrup, beekeeping, as well as many other related chores.

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

Summer work days range from 10-15 hours a day (including chores and meals). Summer work weeks range from 60-80 hours (including chores and meals). Time off: 3 meals a day, Saturday and Sunday (part time) and busy times, wet time or special needs, have options for additional breaks where practical.

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

Our operation is such that food and expenses (normal living) are part of the production of providing for each one's needs, of those involved, during this time.

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.)

Fruit and vegetable production and marketing, animal husbandry, seed saving, field crop production, harvesting and processing, maple sugaring, beekeeping, etc. etc.

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

We have had the opportunity to work with and help many different people, from many different backgrounds, over many years throughout our farming background and Christian Community experience.

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

Experience is the best teacher. Special times of communication meetings are set aside several times a week, as well as daily instruction, and above all co-working projects and side-by-side examples provide hands-on learning.

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

Yes, some.

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

No, but other apprentices are welcome to visit.

Section D: On-Farm Research

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

- a. Evaluation of the benefits etc. (a comparison) of 3 products (fish emulsion, liquid seaweed, Farm For Profit) on vegetable production.**
- b. Improvement and control of quality and fungus on raspberries.**
- c. Control of plum curculio on fruit tree production.**

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.

A separate house will be provided with cooking laundry and bathing facilities, with general food and living supplies shared or provided as needed. Several meals a week will be shared together.

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

Our transportation is by horse or foot. The local needs will be endeavored to be supplied. Long distance travel will need other transportation (e.g. bus).

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

Yes, visitors are welcome for as long is in the interest of everyone. Long term visitors should have arrangements with everyone first. Short term visitor's contribution to the farm is their choice. But on busy days we may be limited for time, but will do our best to accommodate them.

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.)

There are lots of nature trails in the sugar bush. Things like outdoor campfire – corn roasts, outings to the river etc. are opportunities.

Section F: Getting Started

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

Ideally they would be flexible, willing to learn and work, open to communicate, ready for a challenge, have a Christian mindset and focus, interested in self-sufficient sustainable lifestyle. Experience is not necessary if they are open and willing. Working in community with others is part of it.

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

Contact would be good, but not a must, if everything else is clear.

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

No.