

## Farm Application

Farm Name: Circle "S" Farms Ltd.

Farmer(s): Dilys and Wayne Sabine

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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.

We are located in the rolling hills between the Tobique and Saint John rivers, approx. 15 km from Perth-Andover, 25 km from Plaster Rock, and 40 km from Grand Falls. We are within ½ hour of the State of Maine. In our area, one could view the falls at Grand Falls where in the spring 80% of the volume of Niagara Falls passes through a narrow gorge, climb Mount Carleton the highest peak in NB, canoe the beautiful Tobique river, cycle many miles of country roads or the Trans Canada trail, paint or photograph some magnificent scenery, join a softball league, jam with local musicians, volunteer at a food bank, etc. There are congregations of most of the common Christian denominations and some other religions are also represented.

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

We are primarily a livestock farm. We raise pastured poultry using chicken tractors, pastured pork, and certified organic beef. We also raise most of our own vegetables as well as certified organic raspberries, potatoes and rutabagas for sale. There is approx. 125 acres in pasture, hay, or silage crops. The balance of the 295 acres is woods. Forage harvest seems to dominate the summer, Mother Nature doesn't always co-operate with a timely harvest of quality forage.

Most of the farm activities follow the seasonal flow from Maple syrup making in March, through seed bed preparation and planting in Spring, forage and raspberry harvest as well as crop tending in summer, to harvesting the fall crops, spreading compost, making a new compost pile and plowing in the fall. Interspersed with this is the harvest and preserving, etc. of crops for our own use as well as the butchering of the poultry.

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

More than 30 years have gone into making this farm what it is. We have milked cattle and shipped cream, raised sheep and grain crops in the past. Through a variety of constraints including govt. regulations, time, markets, and money we have arrived at our present mix.



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

**We farm where we do because one of us was born and raised in NB, and the other spent most of their time in NS and we like the way of life here. We farm organically because we believe that it is the environmentally friendly way to farm, as well as providing healthier food.**

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

**As far as we know, yes, depending on circumstances.**

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

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

**A lot depends on the apprentice's past experience, willingness to learn new things, and ability. It is possible that eventually they will be able to do any of the work associated with the farm. At first we will start out slow with the more basic work and see how things develop.**

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

**This depends on the work which needs to be done and the weather. There is some flexibility that will be worked out with the apprentice. If an apprentice is looking for a 9-5, 5 day a week job they are looking in the wrong direction.**

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

**To be worked out, too many unknowns at 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.)

**Anything and everything involved re: question 2 above. Opportunity to sell own crafts or products at the farm market in Perth Andover on Saturdays.**

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

**Limited to family members and WWOOFers on farm, off farm a fair amount.**

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

**A lot depends on the apprentice and the job in question.**

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

**A fairly extensive library.**

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

**Depends on circumstances.**

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

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

a. **Intensive pasture management.**

b.

c.

#### **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.

**At this time it appears that a separate house will be available with most meals and laundry facilities available at our home.**

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

**To be worked out.**

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

**Too many variables to give a definitive answer.**

**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.)

**See question 1 above.**

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

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

**Meat eater. Willingness to learn. Not scared to get dirt under fingernails. Preferably someone who wants to become an organic grower. Willingness to ask questions.**

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

**Probably be beneficial for both parties.**

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

**No.**