

## Farm Application

Farm Name: Falls Brook Centre

Farmer(s): Jean Arnold

Address: 125 South Ridge Road, Knowlesville, NB E7L 1B1

Phone: 506-375-4310 or 375-8143 Fax: 506-375-4221

E-mail: ja@fallsbrookcentre.ca

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.

FBC is on the outskirts of the quiet rural village of Knowlesville, 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). The landscape is that of the St. John River Valley – rolling hills with rivers and forest.

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

FBC is a 400+ acre property, mostly wooded with Acadian mixed forest, but with about 2.5 acres of certified organic gardens and orchards. We are a sustainable living demonstration centre, with opportunities to share and learn with others about organic agriculture, renewable energy, sustainable forestry and community development. We host a number of staff, visitors, interns and volunteers (W W O O F e r s) throughout the year.

Please visit our website for more information about our programs:

[www.fallsbrookcentre.ca](http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca).

The gardens include summer and winter storage vegetables, herbs, shiitake mushrooms, small fruits, apples and greenhouses. Our food is produced primarily to feed ourselves first, including filling our winter storage with root crops and preserves. Work is done with the help of many hands, and very little mechanized equipment is employed (biggest tool is our walk-behind rototiller).

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

At Falls Brook Centre there are different people in different aspects of the farm experience. Elaine Dodd has experience in homesteading, food production and preservation. Elaine does much of the food preparation and preservation for FBC, and works with Jean in the main garden to prepare, plant, maintain and harvest the herbs and vegetables. Jean has been involved in numerous activities and groups associated with organic agriculture around the world, including Canadian Organic Growers and the Canadian Environment Network.

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



**Organic farming is a fundamental practice of sustainable living. Producing food with the foresight of future generations' needs is what encourages FBC to practice and share our ideas about organics both in-the-field and in our projects.**

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.

**The FBC apprentice will be working in our gardens from planting to harvest. Tasks include greenhouse production, soil preparation, compost building, pest and weed monitoring, and more.**

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

**The work week is 9-5, Monday to Friday with weekends off. Some chores and tasks will need to be completed in off-hours, including watering and monitoring greenhouses and covering gardens for frost protection.**

**Falls Brook Centre apprentices work and get paid a stipend of \$100/week (\$65 lodging fee, \$17/week whole food cooperative and \$18 spending money).**

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

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

**The FBC apprentice has many opportunities to learn about a variety of organic agriculture topics, but learning may also branch into some of our other program areas. We have many visitors on-site, and the apprentice will have the opportunity to engage these groups/visitors in hands-on tasks and learning.**

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

**Jean works with numerous staff, visitors and volunteers in the FBC gardens.**

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

**Training is done through one-to-one mentorship and working on tasks together. The apprentice will also have access to our library with a wide selection of books on various organic ag topics. The apprentice will also have opportunities to work independently, gaining greater responsibility as skills develop.**

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

**Yes. FBC has a vast library available.**

**12. 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**

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

- a. **Invasive weed control**
- b. **Red Cabbage maturity and success**
- c.

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

**14. Living Arrangements:**

**Private room in a household, shared cooking, laundry and recreational facilities.**

**15. 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.**

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

**Visitors are welcome for short periods of time, but are expected to volunteer their labour in the gardens in exchange for room and board (much like WWOOFing).**

**17. 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.)

**With many visitors and staff during the summer, FBC has no end of activities and events in the off-work hours. Trips to the river for swimming, hiking the FBC trails, music jams, campfires and more are frequent events. There are many churches in the area, and a Women's Institute in Knowlesville. The Glassville Rec Council hosts many events through the summer, including both men and women softball teams.**

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

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

**The ideal apprentice is one that can work well in many situations, both with others and independently. Past farming or gardening experience is desired.**

**19. 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 centre would be welcomed.**

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

**We focus on creating a learning and teaching experience from the production of our own food. FBC is not a typical organic farm, and although we do not derive an income from our gardens, we do feed ourselves delicious, organic and healthy food grown by our own hands. If your aim is to get a taste of “real farming life”, this is not what FBC offers. We do, however, have a unique opportunity to get a taste of sustainable living through the many people that visit and work here, and the projects in which we work.**