

2007 Farm Application

Farm Name: Harvest Haven

Farmer(s): Mark and Carol Stewart

Address: 70 Kerrs Ridge Road, Bocabec, NB

Phone: 506-529-4996

Fax:

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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.

Harvest Haven is a ten minute drive outside scenic St. Andrews, NB. We are located on a 30 acre lot on the Bocabec River. The river is tidal and the view is constantly changing. The farm has an wireless satellite internet connection.

St. Andrews is a lively summer resort town with a vibrant farmer market and arts community.

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

The land was originally farmed as family hobby farm in the 1970's. In the summer of 2006 we purchased the land from our parents and started to re-establish the farm. We built a 500 sq ft greenhouse and also have a 400 sq ft raised bed in addition to several tilled plots. There are several large fields that are now mowed and awaiting a crop plan.

There is a significant raspberry patch (180 pints and growing) and new bramble varieties were added last year. (tayberries and another variety of raspberries) In addition, we are working on reviving some blueberry patches on the property so we can sell chemical and pesticide free blueberries.

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

Grew up on a family hobby farm. One of us has a degree in Biology and the other is an Electrical Engineer. In 2006, we successfully raised several vegetable crops and sold them at the farmers market. (Are claim to fame was greens at the late May market.)

In addition we had two Woofers join us. In both cases they extended there original planned stay.

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

Farming organically is in harmony with nature. Chemicals and pesticides introduce an undue



risk to the consumers of the end product. We were both born in the Maritimes and enjoy the challenge of building an economically sustainable farm.

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

One of us is always on location.

Section B: Work Description

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

Planting, weeding, tilling, composting, harvesting, selling, marketing, planning new plots, researching best practices. Internet search capabilities and a passion to learn are a must.

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

Work hours are typically 8 hours except on harvest days. All day Sunday off. One other full day off determined by market schedule.

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

Apprentices will share in the farm gate sales. Amount to be determined in business plan.

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.)

Developing plans for a new plot of land. Raspberry maintenance. Develop a small egg laying operation. Learning the art of the sale and the importance of the customer. We are

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

Hosted several woofers last summer. We have both been involved in training adult learners in university and professional scenarios. We both have extensive sales experience and stress the importance of the customer relationship.

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

We believe that people learn best when they control the process and have goals. Apprentices will be supplied with projects as learning opportunities. We will provide some baseline training and pointers and then act as mentors through the process.

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

We have lots of books on farming, Mother Earth News magazines, etc. Apprentices will be supplied with any additional titles they require to meet their goals.

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

Need more details on length of exchange.

Section D: On-Farm Research

- 14. Projects:** List and briefly describe 3 possible on-farm research projects you are interested in:
- a. **Creation of Blackberry patch along with the expansion of current raspberry patch**
 - b. **Developing a reliable process for drying tomatos and herbs**
 - c. **Creation of a deer proof strawberry patch**

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.

Apprentices will have their own cottage to live in. It is on the banks of the river and has plumbing and a shower and its own kitchen. We will provide staples and the apprentice can prepare their own meals or join in the family meals.

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

We travel to town practically every day so there is always a ride. Also will provide transportation to seminars.

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

Yes. Visits are encouraged. If the stay is longer than two days, they will be expected to pitch in.

- 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.)

Mountain bikes on premise, lots of roads and trails to walk on, swim in river or nearby lakes. St. Andrews has lots of summer activity (whale watching, recitals, seminars)

Section F: Getting Started

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

We strike a balance between an ideal naturalist and realistic business person. The apprentice

must be someone that can take a project and run with it without constant intervention. We understand they will have successes and failures and will support them through both.

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

We would like the opportunity of a visit and an interview.

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

Please send your completed application to:

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