

2007 Farm Application

Farm Name: Hope Farm

Farmer(s): Reiner Zimmermann

Address: 1020 Lawson Road

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Number of apprentices sought: __

Our farm can host couples/small family: Yes__X_ *When they are committed to the farm and stay over the winter.*

We are interested in hosting a Farming Organically Workshop. Yes____ No_X__

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.

The farm is located in Kent County, NB. The farm is 45 km north of Moncton, 20 km from the Atlantic ocean. St Norbert is a small village without a store or any excitement.

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

I bought the farm in 1987. There are 300 acres: 120 acres farmland and the wood lots. It is a mixed farm with goats, chickens, beef and vegetables. There is always something to do in the different parts of the farm.

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

I do have a degree in farming from Germany. I worked on different organic farms in Germany before I moved to Canada in 1990. My farm was certified with OCIA before I moved back to Germany where I managed the biggest farm in former West-Germany.

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

I have only farmed organically all the time, and I chose to buy a farm in NB because the price of land was affordable and the area is less industrial than other places.

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

In 2007 I will be full-time on the farm, except possibly 2 weeks in the Spring.



Section B: Work Description

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

In the vegetable part: Planting, seeding, weeding, mulching, harvesting, delivering produce.

Animal part: Feeding, fencing, making hay.

In the woods: Bringing in the firewood.

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

I expect an apprentice to work the same hours as I do except weekends. It is normally a very busy Spring and Summer, but slows down in the Fall.

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

The farm does not make enough money to pay an apprentice.

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.)

Tractor work after careful and slow start. An apprentice will be in contact with the animals every day. We will deliver boxes of vegetables (ie. CSA) to the natural foodstore in Moncton.

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

I had to teach some farm workers organic farming back in Germany. I even have knowledge about biodynamic farming. The summer is not a good time to teach more details – I am too busy for that. There is enough time to talk during the work and in the evening.

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

It will be mostly during the work where we talk about different things, life green manure crops, rotation, compost, animals in the circle of the farm.

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

Yes. I do have a lot in both German and English.

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

Yes, I am. From my experience last year in this program, it would be a good idea.

Section D: On-Farm Research

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

- a. **How is the mulch affecting the development of the soil and the animal life in the soil?**
- b. **What is the difference between feeding the animals in the barn or in the pasture?**
- 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.

There is everything on the farm that we need to have a comfortable life.

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

I can drive the apprentice to the bus terminal.

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

Visitors are welcome, but not for a long time.

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.)

I have bikes at the farm. There are trails in my woodlots. 20 km from here is the Atlantic ocean with nice beaches.

Section F: Getting Started

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

Just be interested in organic farming and work with me along what ever there is to do.

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

No, but he or she has to contact me by e-mail (use the winter address: ims.asbach@t-online.de) and I have clear questions I have for them.

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

No.