

## Farm Application

Farm Name: Millstream Meadow Farm

Farmer(s): Ben Nyssen

Address: 76 McLeod Rd, Lower Millstream, NB, E5P 3J8

Phone: 506-432-4684

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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.

Millstream Meadow is located in the southern part of NB, in a landscape of rolling hills. A small village with post office and corner store is within biking distance, and Sussex (town of 40,000) is a 15 minute drive away. Grand Lake, an attractive vacation spot in summer, is 20 minutes away, and the Bay of Fundy provincial park is a 45 minute drive. The farm is rural, however neighbours are about a 1/2 mile away.

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

167 acres total, 140 mixed farming (hay fields, field crops, pasture), greenhouse produce, rented apple orchard, 10 acres industrial hemp, 20 acres woods, post and beam straw bale buildings, free range chickens, transition into organic certification, first year CSA.

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

I was raised on a dairy farm until my teens, and since then I've always had at least part-time farming in the mix. Experience in landscaping, sheep and other livestock, hemp, oilseed crops/grains. I've had apple orchard experience in Southern Ontario – now looking at revitalizing an abandoned orchard with 700 trees about 25-30 years old (30 minute drive away). Getting into CSA and mixed vegetables is the next venture.

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

My land needed to heal from previous abusive methods of farming. The Maritimes has a kind climate, and so are the people.

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.

**A range of activities and responsibilities over the season, including land preparation, seeding in greenhouse, transplanting, CSA prep, carpentry work (few days a week or time set aside), free-range chickens – bird care and housing maintenance, fencing for livestock, apple tree pruning, CSA harvest and delivery, possible farm market stall on Saturdays.**

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

**40 hour week, flexible on off-days. CSA are busy days.**

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

**\$25 (per week) and shared bonus at own applied marketing abilities. Possibility to grow and market their own produce at market stall – complimentary to the farms products.**

### **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.)

**Building with wood, preparation of land, harvesting, developing finished products.**

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

**I have worked with WWOOFers in the past, expanding the mentorship experiences outside of the agriculture realm (construction, strawbale building). Mentor to local church youth group. Integrated my children into the farm operation.**

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

**To teach the patience of workmanship and stay positive.**

**Be a role model in developing methods of living in harmony with the land.**

**Regardless of background or level of experience, it is important to give each person a chance to work and learn so that they're encouraged to give that back.**

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

**Yes – lots of materials, covering wide range of topics. Local library is close by.**

13. **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**

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

- a. **Extending growing seasonal crops (vegetables)**
- b. **Industrial hemp processing**
- c. **Revitalizing an abandoned apple orchard.**

### **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.

**Off-grid 21'x34' two story home. Laundry close or in tow. Holding tank and solar heated water. Cookstove, microwave. Food provided by meself and farm grown. Some meals shared.**

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

**Bicycles, motorcycle, town day with car. We can travel to workshops together or drop the apprentice at the closest bus stop.**

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

**Visitors are welcome as long as rules are followed.**

**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.)

**Swimming in pond or river close by. Bay of Fundy is 45 minutes away, camp fires, horseback riding.**

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

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

- **good coordination**
- **multi-skilled**
- **make practical decisions**
- **agriculture related, creative**
- **building in practical ways**

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

**Interview on phone.**

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

**Millstream Meadow is a diverse mix of agriculture in its early stages, has many challenges that have been accomplished, through trial and error and a willingness to explore opportunities every day.**