

Burning River Farm

2023 Job Description



The Farm

Burning River Farm is a small farm specializing in vegetables for farmers markets. The farm is [Certified Naturally Grown](#), the grassroots alternative to USDA Organic. Working on the farm is a great job, or opportunity to gain real experience to put towards farming goals.

Overview

Employment at Burning River Farm is an opportunity on a small, locally based, for profit vegetable farm. The FT crew is the backbone of the farm! The primary goal through the season is to grow exceptional, nutritious, clean food without the use of chemical inputs, and to improve the quality of the soil for the following season. We strive provide an employment experience that is positive and productive. Employees will be involved in aspects of farming within the perimeters of the season itself. This includes, but is not limited to: greenhouse production for transplants, field production, planting, weeding, harvest, washing and packing vegetables for CSA and market, and general farming tasks.

Working at Burning River Farm is an excellent opportunity for those willing to work hard.

Work Schedule

The season runs from May 1st to November 1st. The work week schedule is Tuesday- Saturday. Full work days are generally from 7 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with an hour lunch, however we may work later or earlier on any given day to complete needed tasks. The schedule may change in response to weather or working conditions.

Crew members need to be ready at 7 a.m., prepared to work and for the days conditions. **This means having appropriate clothing for the day on hand.** At that time, there is an overview of the day and what needs to be accomplished. Although there are ongoing tasks throughout the season, farm tasks are ever changing. Tasks are dealt with either as a crew or on an individual basis.

Vegetable Production:

Crew take part in most aspects of vegetable production. This includes both manual farm work (weeding, trellising, hoeing, etc) as well as tractor tasks (field prep, cover crop mowing and incorporation, bed prep, etc). These tasks are quite physical and require speed and detail.

Harvest and Post Harvest:

Tasks include timely harvest of many varieties of vegetables, with an eye for quality and efficiency as well as intake and processing of produce coming in from the fields. This includes cleaning and packing for farmers markets and accounts.

Working at farmers markets:

Responsibilities at the farmers markets include setting up the farm stand and creating an attractive and inviting display, handling transactions, providing friendly and expedient customer service and enjoying the

experience. Farmers Markets require 5am Saturday morning start usually returning by 4pm. They are long, exhausting and enjoyable days.

On Saturdays we attend the Mill City, NE Minneapolis, and Midtown Farmers Markets. On Sundays we attend the St. Paul Farmers Market.

Although the tasks and rhythm of the season changes over the months, many tasks happen on a weekly basis. For example, loose greens and salad mix are major crops on the farm. We may be harvesting, washing and packing greens 2 days a week through much of the season. Another ongoing task through the season is hand weeding crops, which entire days may be devoted too. These tasks are monotonous, requiring an eye for detail, a focus on completing the task at hand, and a fresh approach each day.

Employees are responsible for providing their own lunch most workdays (occasionally lunch will be provided for the crew). There is a kitchen available on the farm for any food preparation needs.

Working on the farm is extremely physical work, requiring determination and above average endurance! Please take this into account when considering farm work.



Housing

Housing is provided off the farm in a shared crew house in the town of Frederic, 3 miles from the farm. Each crew members has a private bedroom in the 3 bedroom house. There are 2 bathrooms (one with a shower, one with a bathtub) and a full kitchen. The house is modern and comfortable. For more info, see the housing agreement.

Crew members are responsible for maintaining the house and grounds. This includes keeping the house clean and the yard presentable (lawn mowed at least every other week and weeding around the house). In general, pets are not allowed. The farm is also not able to accommodate the family of a perspective crew member in the crew house. Crew members must sign a housing agreement before moving in (see [Housing Agreement](#)).

Compensation

Compensation consists of salary and housing. Monthly salary for a FT employee is \$2500. This is approx. equivalent to \$15.00/hr, not including the value of housing provided.

Taking Time Off

FT employees may take **5 paid days** off during the season for personal use. These may be taken separately, or all at once. However, they need to be communicated and accepted by the farm at least 2 weeks ahead, and must not conflict with another employees time off.

Taking a day off due to illness must be communicated ASAP.

Other

This position is for a full season on the farm. Therefore, commitment to the season is required. As a crew member on the farm, you are expected to be punctual, honest and have a strong work ethic. Applicants need to be positive and self starting with good communication skills. You must

also be capable of daily physical labor and have the ability and desire to carry out tasks efficiently. It is important for crew members to be on task when on the clock. Though there is no formal education given for this position, this opportunity provides on the job training and is a great outlet for the right person to gain experience towards a farming career.

The Surrounding Area

Frederic is located in rural Polk County, WI. The area has wonderful natural beauty, a good community, a [food co-op](#) and a [cafe nearby](#), along with great [hiking](#), [biking](#), swimming and [outdoor opportunities](#) with a chance for quiet in a rural setting. There are also opportunities to meet other farm folk and spend time in the Minneapolis/St. Paul or Duluth areas. Having a car is recommended, but not essential. We've had many past employees do well with just a bicycle.

Thank you for your interest in working at Burning River Farm.