Fall Internship Position at Living Earth Farm

Located on 15 acres just west of the city limits of Eugene, the Living Earth Farm was started in July 2007 by the Blick Family. Inspired by the book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, we aim to grow food in a truly sustainable way while also increasing our community's food security. We use no chemicals, little fuel, and solar energy. Our goals include raising happy animals, growing our own food, connecting people to their food, restoring native plants and wildlife habitat, and educating others. We raise chickens, lambs, and pigs for meat. We also grow fruit and vegetables using organic practices, and we have two bee hives. We have been Animal Welfare Approved and Certified Wildlife Friendly, and are currently a member of the Oregon Pasture Network. We run a full choice CSA, with 9 subscribers and other occasional customers. Learn more about our farm at www.TheLivingEarthFarm.com

Internship Education

The fall term intern will receive education and training in harvesting, crop storage, orchard and berry management, cover crops, winter gardening, cultivation and weed management, pest management, composting, soil science and fertilization, sheep breeding, management intensive grazing, livestock guardian animals, winter livestock/pasture management, goat-keeping, butchering of pigs and lambs, tractor usage, and business management. The intern will accompany the farmer as she goes about her work, helping out with whatever she is doing, while she explains how, why, and when we do each task and answers any questions. While doing tasks that are long and tedious, the farmer and intern can discuss other aspects of farming such as marketing, customer service, legal issues, record keeping, certifications, employing workers, planning, scale, profitability, and the impacts of climate change. Other farm related subjects can be covered depending on intern’s interests, with optional reading assignments and subsequent discussion. The expectation is that the help that the intern provides will be equal to the extra time the farmer spends educating the intern. The farmer has a MS degree in Ecology and has taught high school biology and also ecology classes for Lane Community College.

Fringe Benefits

The intern will be able to take home some produce from the farm and will be qualified to serve as a work-trader or farm-sitter in the future. The intern can enjoy our peaceful country setting only 15 minutes from downtown Eugene and close to hiking, boating, biking, and birdwatching opportunities at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area and West Eugene Wetlands.

Schedule

We are pretty flexible about when the intern can schedule times to come to the farm between 8 am and dark. The schedule need not be the same every week; working more when the weather is good is preferable, but we would like at least 4 hours/week during the fall term. In addition, we would like the intern to be able to help at our Farm Store at our Apple Cider Party on a Sunday afternoon in October.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Passion for small-scale, diverse, organic farming and local food security.
- Experience in organic gardening and/or outdoor work
- Experience with animals
- Energy and ability to do physically demanding work and work that can be monotonous at times.
- Trustworthy and reliable

To apply: Send an email detailing your interest, relevant experience, availability and how many hours you want to work, plus a resume and 3 references to Sharon Blick at livingearthfarm@comcast.net. Best done in spring or summer term. Due Tuesday of the first week of classes by midnight. Decision will be made by Thursday of that week.