

Job Opening

Title: Purdue Student Farm Summer Crew

Supervisor: Purdue Student Farm Manager

Department Sponsors: Botany & Plant Pathology and Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

Date Prepared: January 21, 2014

Summary of Position:

The Purdue Student Farm began in 2010 as a project for students seeking to gain hands-on small farm management and marketing experience. Four years later, in 2014, we have a goal of growing approximately \$40,000 in produce for various on campus caterers and Lafayette based food businesses. Farm Crew members will work as a team under the leadership of the Farm Manager to run the day-to-day operations of the Student Farm. This will include all tasks involved in vegetable production and produce sales as well as providing excellent customer service to farm customers and visitors.

Ideal candidates will enjoy working outdoors with plants and food. They will also possess a good attitude, be highly flexible, and demonstrate a commitment to helping to develop the Student Farm as a project and community. Available positions are seasonal, temporary, and full time, with a variable weekly work schedule.

Experience and Skills Required:

- Demonstrated commitment to the development of the Purdue Student Farm
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work quickly, multi-task and be flexible on a daily basis
- Ability to maintain organized records
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work in and dress appropriately for all weather conditions
- Initiative and ability to prioritize and complete tasks without direct supervision
- Ability to cheerfully follow directions
- An inclination toward efficiency and problem solving
- Physical strength to perform repetitive, heavy and light manual labor
- Love and appreciation for beautiful produce and good food
- Desire to positively, actively contribute to a growing farm community
- Good academic standing

Duties:

- Attain proficiency in all basic farm skills including composting, cultivating, harvesting, irrigating, washing and packing produce, seeding, transplanting, weeding, and other chores as needed
- Provide excellent customer service and education to Student Farm customers and visitors
- Responsible use of equipment and facilities with a priority in safety
- Learn routine maintenance and perform it for all tools and equipment
- Assist with marketing, delivery, and sale of produce
- Contribute ideas and energy to farm outreach
- Work effectively and cooperatively with other Student Farm staff
- Complete special projects as assigned by the Student Farm Manager

Work schedule:

"Summer" on the farm will run Monday, May 19 through Friday, August 22, 2014. The weekly work schedule will vary throughout the season, depending on day light hours, tasks to be completed, and weather. Crew members will be expected to be available 8-10 hours per day, Monday through Friday, beginning as early as 6 AM during the heat of the season or as late as 9 AM earlier in the spring. There will be an hour long unpaid break every day for lunch and shorter paid morning or afternoon breaks depending on team efficiency and weather conditions.

Once a month, each crew member will additionally be expected to cover Saturday and Sunday weekend watering, animal feeding, and basic daily farm maintenance. Crew members will also be expected to help out past the regular work week if there is some unexpected farm emergency. If we experience a heat wave, we may work just a half day or come for an early morning shift and a later evening shift to avoid dangerous temperatures.

Every effort will be made to announce schedule changes at least one week in advance but this position does require a high degree of flexibility and full time dedication. Additional work and classroom commitments are not recommended. An extremely efficient, effective, thorough team will be rewarded with greater productivity and shorter work days.

Compensation:

Crew members will be offered an hourly minimum wage of \$7.25/hour plus access to excess farm produce. Farm crew who demonstrate exceptional work ethic and deep commitment to the farm will be rewarded with periodic raises throughout the summer up to \$9/hour. Stand-out individuals may be considered for continued hourly farm labor work during the regular school year.

To apply send resume or CV, cover letter, three references, and availability to:

Rachel Beyer, Farm Manager, rbeyer@purdue.edu

For more information about the farm, visit:

<http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/programs/studentfarm/Pages/default.aspx>

Application Deadline: March 24, 2014