

The Farm at Locusts on Hudson is seeking 1 full year, 4 six month apprentices and interns for the 2012 season.

We are a 75 acre diversified farm located along the Hudson River in Dutchess County, New York. Our farm produces vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, dairy, livestock, poultry and honey. We sell to a high-end restaurant and are beginning our first year of CSA. We are in the process of building an educational outreach program for the public.

Apprentices will learn all aspects of managing fields, pasture and forest as a complementary whole. Apprentices are exposed to a 26-week curriculum with weekly readings, lectures and discussions.

A successful candidate will have a serious interest in learning both the practical and theoretical aspects of diversified farming, including but not limited to:

Animals

We will share livestock chores with a greater intention of creating a healthy and nourishing environment for all of our pasture based animals. We raise beef cattle, dairy cattle, pigs, broilers and egg layers. Chores will include: milking, pasture rotation, egg collection and cleaning, moving fencing and shelters, bringing animals to be slaughtered and cleaning equipment.

Vegetables

Our vegetables are grown intensively year-round by managing balanced soil ecosystems.

Apprentices will learn:

Propagation of vegetables, flowers and herbs

Direct Seeding and transplanting

Complete Mineral Balancing, Soil Ammendments and Herbal Tea Sprays

Homeopathy for Plants

Crop Rotation and Planting Schedule

Managing seasonal harvest loads

Companion Planting and Intensive Planting

Four Season Growing – season extension, greenhouses, coldframes, low tunnels

Processing, harvesting and marketing to a high end restaurant and to a CSA

Crop selection and storage

Timber, Herbs, Mushrooms, Fruit and the Wild Foraging

Managing the forest for its products is a minor aspect of our farm operation. Apprentices will be working with timber products, herbs, mushrooms, wild foraged crops, fruit and perennials in our woodlands. Apprentices will also have an opportunity to learn how to perform forest surveys and design agroforestry management plans.

Expectations: A positive attitude, sense of humor, flexibility and a strong work ethic are prerequisite. Apprentices shift schedules during the high and low seasons, working for 3 months at 50-55 hours/week and for 3 months at 30-35 hours/week.

Exchange:

We offer a weekly class to our apprentices, a daily meditation session, food share and a weekly farm dinner. Option to participate in the Collaborate Regional Alliance Farmer Training: CRAFT. \$1500 monthly stipend

Contact: Please send resume and cover letter to: locustsfarmer@gmail.com