



The Living Farm, LLC Small Farms Program 2021

Overview

Our Small Farms programs are exciting, total immersion programs designed to involve students in as many of our animal, vegetable, farm production and marketing activities as possible. Our Short Stay Program is for anyone who wants to experience farm life without having to commit an entire summer. Our Summer Seasonal Program is for anyone who wants to experience an organic sustainable farm

Programs

Summer Seasonal Program

This program is for people who want to experience an organic sustainable farm and are interested in having their own farm some day. You will work beside us learning and experiencing the farm life. You will have four 6 hour shifts per week. There will also be opportunities to learn food preservation and fiber arts.

Compensation

You will be provided with a housing, a place to cook meals and farm food. Other opportunities may exist to work for pay. Please inquire about openings.

Short Stay Program

For those of you who want a farm experience, we have Short Stay Program which lasts 4- 8 weeks. You will work beside us learning and experiencing the farm life. You will have four 6 hour shifts per week. There will also be opportunities to learn food preservation and fiber arts.

Compensation

You will be provided with a housing, a place to cook meals and farm food.

Trial period

Everyone will go through a two week trial period after you arrive. If possible, we recommend that you come for a visit prior to starting. We are opening more than our workplace to you; we are opening our home to you as well. Part of our responsibility to ourselves, our students, our customers, and our farm is to create a respectful, cooperative, and productive environment. If you are accepted for any program, we expect you to stay to the end of the term.

Housing

- We have 2 bedrooms in the main farm house.
- You are responsible for your own health insurance, long distance transportation, and telephone costs.

The house does have a dog. For those allergic to dogs this will not be a good situation.

Maintenance

Everyone is expected to help out with the maintenance of the farm including the house and yard. Everyone will have scheduled chores related to maintaining the grounds and living quarters.

Extras

Our valley has the highest concentration of organic farmers in Colorado. Plenty of opportunities for other organic workshops in the area.

Small Farm Program

Here are some of the things you can learn while here. Depending on the time of year, will depend on what you will have opportunity to learn.

Year 1 the basics			
Food production (vegetable, year round)	Animals (sheep, chickens turkeys and more)	Business skills	Extra things to learn after work
planting	Sheep: feeding, health, birth, milking, milk handling, observation, shearing, wool handling	How to live the farm life. The small farms quandary and how to win.	Wool crafts: spinning, knitting, weaving, rug hooking, felting
Picking/ processing	Pigs: raising, housing, feeding, health	Basic business models	Food preservation: canning, dehydrating, freezing
Watering	Laying hens: raising, health, feeding, egg collection and handling	Parts of the farm business	Dairy products: cheese making, yogurt, ice-cream
Maintenance	Meat birds: raising, moving, feeding, health	Types of income	Gluten free cooking
Seasonal differences	Turkeys: raising, housing, feeding, health, breeding	regulations	Extensive reading material
Seed saving		Sales: retail, wholesale, Farm's Market, CSA	Local farm tours
Edible landscaping			
Basics of Bio dynamic farming			

We want you to have a good time!

When you come to work here, you come for a farm experience. You will give much of yourself – maybe more than you ever thought possible. We want you to have an adventure here of land, weather, plants animals and learning.

Farm Rules

At *The Living Farm, LLC*, we strive to make the working and living environment harmonious. Therefore we have developed some rules which help us to pay more attention to our goals: farming well, learning, appreciating each other, and enjoying the beauty of this place. Please study these rules and guidelines. Abiding by them is a requirement for being here. Please note the distinction between "rules" and "guidelines" is simply that the former tend to be more easily enforced than the latter. By no means does this indicate that following the guidelines is any less important than following the rules. We consider all the behaviors described here as essential to the smooth functioning of our farm.

Farm Rules

- **No recreational drugs on the farm.**

(One violation of this rule is grounds for instant dismissal.)

- **Violent or aggressive actions (physical or verbal) to others are not allowed.**
- **No smoking anywhere or anytime. Violators will be asked to leave.**
- **No pets.**
- **Be to work on time.**
- **Quiet time in the farm house is from 10 pm- 6 am.** Music, TV, and

conversation can continue at a reasonable volume in places out of earshot of sleepers.

- **Clean shared living spaces.**

Specific weekly and daily clean-up tasks will be required for the common house.

Farm Guidelines

- **Alcohol consumption is discouraged, but allowed - in moderation, but never during work hours.**
- **Get enough rest.** The work is demanding and should be executed efficiently and in a state of clarity.
- **Music selection and volume should be agreed on in the communal spaces.**

The Living Farm Student Application 2021

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out application and email to thelivingfarm1938@gmail.com or mail to The Living Farm Lynn Gillespie 39776 Green Tractor Rd. Paonia, Co 81428

Before you start filling out the application, consider

- What do you want to get out of this program?
- Can you really get it here?
- You usually get only as much as you give.
- What do you want to give to this program?
- Are you really able to give it?

Interview

Can you visit the farm for a **walk through**? We understand this will not be practical if you are an European student.

Deadline

There is no particular deadline for submission of your application. The best time to apply, however, is late winter when we are making plans for the next season. First application in will get preference.

How to Apply

Send a completed program application along with a resume pertinent to the position you are applying for, and three work-related references to the address or email address listed above. Please send us a picture of yourself. Contact us by email (thelivingfarm1938@gmail.com) with questions.

Real Farm Experience: Your farm experience will emulate a real life farm experience. There are a many days where we work many hours. Other days we work few hours (mostly in the winter). Everything is seasonal and runs on cycles. You will be asked to put forth an extreme amount of effort some days. As a team we will ask you to pull your own weight. If you refuse to do something then another team mate must take up your slack. This behavior will not be tolerated. We are all in this together. You want a real farm experience, here it is.

Equipment: The farm has a very tight budget. All the equipment on the farm is valuable and needs to be taken care of extremely well. It is very hard to come up with the money to replace stuff. You are working with a 50 year accumulation of equipment; it would take us another 50 years to replace it all. Don't destroy this farm by being careless of the equipment or housing.

Respect: I can teach you how to do all the work required to successfully run a farm. What I ask in return is respect. The best way to show respect is to show up on time. This in my mind means showing up at least 5 minutes early and being ready to work on time. Those that show respect for this operation and my family will get preferential treatment when new opportunity arises. Those that are late and cause disruption in other people's schedule will be asked to leave.

This is an experience not a job: This is a tuition free learning facility not a job. If you are in need financial support than you will need to get a job elsewhere.

The Living Farm Small Farms Program Application

Part 1: Personal Information

Today's Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day phone _____ Eve phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Date of Birth _____

Emergency contacts _____

What level are you applying for?

Summer Seasonal

Short Stay

Part 2: General statement of interest

Please provide a statement of interest in about 500 words or less indicating what you would like to get from this program.

Part 3 Interview:

1. What skills/qualities/knowledge would you like to acquire or develop through being at The Living Farm?
2. How do you see your prior work and life experience contributing to your work at The Living Farm?
3. Some of the work you may do entails continuous and sometimes strenuous physical activity. Do you have any experience with work of this nature?
4. What skills or passions do you have that you would like to share with other students and staff at The Living Farm?
5. You will be in an environment where you will have the opportunity to look at and take responsibility for your own behavior patterns. How committed are you to utilize this opportunity?
6. Our programs require high levels of self-discipline and initiative. Describe a recent experience where you demonstrated these qualities.
7. What are your long term goals?
8. Do you have any health problems, allergies, special needs or addictions?

9. Are you on any medications?
10. Have you been convicted? If yes, what for?
11. Can you lift 50 pounds?
12. Are you a vegetarian, vegan or omnivore?

13. How do you see your role in creating a sustainable world culture?
14. Our programs require some work on weekends as part of weekly work hours. Are you open to working on weekends? Are you willing to put in the effort for the whole day sometimes night too?
15. Do you like animals? What types? What experience have you had with animals?
14. Is there anything else that you think we should know, or that you would like us to know about you?
15. Will you come with a car?
16. Do you intend to farm for a living?

17. When would you want to start? Can you be here year round?

PART IV: contract

(a) All information furnished by me is complete and correct

(b) You will need to provide a copy of your driver's license or other photo ID upon arrival.

(c) The Living Farm will not be held responsible for any mishap, damage, loss or injury to me or my belongings while on the farm. I have my own health insurance.

(d) I understand that the Director of The Living Farm has right to cancel my stay on the farm at any time for any reason.

Signature:

Date: