Coveyou Scenic Farm Organic Produce Production Internship Overview 2016

Coveyou Scenic Farm is a 142 year old family farm in Northern Michigan that continues to expand production of a wide array of certified organic vegetables on approximately 25 acres with additional acreage being added each year. Produce is sold through our on farm market, CSA, three farm markets, restaurants, institutions, food coops, and schools.

This 5th generation family farm has transitioned and diversified over the last 12 years to focus on growing for the local market. Spring and fall potted flowers, pumpkins and hayrides as well as Christmas wreaths and greenery are produced on the farm but it is the wide array of vegetables that are the mainstay.

Interns on our farm get a wide and varied experience of working all aspects of the farm from field prep, seeding, planting, growing, harvesting, produce preparation/packaging, farm market selling, CSA box preparation and many other tasks. Many interns will be trained and use a tractor during their stay. Our farm has a focus on high quality produce and we grow over 250 different seed varieties with a focus on season extension with expanding focus into winter growing. We use 9 high tunnels (8 of them moveable) as well as low tunnels and row cover. We have one 48x100' greenhouse for transplant production and geothermally heated winter greens growing. Our main cropping system uses raised bed plastic mulch with drip irrigation throughout the farm fed from our on farm pond. Soils are built through the use of cover crop rotation, compost and natural minerals. Most plants are started from seed in our greenhouses and transplanted to the field.

Sustainability and energy efficiency are a major focus on the farm and we have multiple on-farm conservation components: our geothermal walk-in vegetable cooler, geothermal run produce field heat removal system and market display system, our 18KW PV net metered electrical generation solar array, a new geothermal heated winter greens growing system and this year we will upgrade to a new high efficiency variable frequency drive irrigation pump.

In addition to our vegetable crops Coveyou Scenic Farm also grows spring flowers and bedding annuals/perennials in two greenhouses and potted garden mums, cut flowers, 300 tree apple orchard, pumpkins for U-pick, hayride tours in the fall and on farm produced evergreen Christmas wreaths and holiday decorations. The farm has an additional 300 acres of uncultivated or woodlot area.

For 2016, we are seeking 5 hard-working interns to work between 3-6 months (April/June – August/November). Lodging is provided in an on-farm house. Meals will be prepared on your own, with unlimited access to our fields full of meal opportunities a short walk from your back
door. A weekly stipend of $150 is also provided with a bonus of $25/week for staying the agreed to duration. Interns work five and half days a week. We also have a vacation day bonus plan based on the length of your stay.

The farm is located roughly 3 miles from downtown Petoskey, making biking or driving an easy option. This area of northern Michigan is usually bustling in the summer tourism season with numerous festivals, concerts, and other cultural/recreational opportunities. The region is known for its abundance of lakes, beaches, bike trails and extensive Lake Michigan coastline. A car is not required but is generally very helpful.

Successful interns are generally self-motivated, hardworking, detailed oriented, have a positive disposition, work well with others, think creatively to solve problems and are good at working independently. Experience working on a farm is extremely helpful. This internship is not a classroom learning experience, and the ability to handle multiple tasks and manage time is very important. You will get dirty, hot, tired on a regular basis...and by the end of the season be rewarded with the breadth of knowledge you attain.

We welcome applications for the internship from hard-working individuals from diverse backgrounds; the internship is designed for individuals with a serious interest in gaining the skills necessary to farm, though prior farming experience is not necessarily required. Anyone with a passion for agriculture and the physical ability to work the typical days of a farming life will be considered.

Applicants are requested to send a resume along with an email or cover letter describing why you would like to take part in this internship that outlines your background, work experiences and passions that make you well suited for this internship.

For more information contact:

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