Produce Field Manager Position

Coveyou Scenic Farm is hiring a Produce Field Manager to lead our certified organic vegetable production.

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

The Produce Field Manager reports to the Farm Manager, David Coveyou, whose full time profession is running the farm. Field workers are a combination of local labor, intern students and potentially migrant staff and range from 1-10 people depending on the time of the year. The field crew report to the Produce Field Manager for day to day oversight and direction.

Duties will include leading the field crew to prepare fields, seed, transplant, weed, prune, trellis, irrigate, fertilize, harvest, pack, managing pests and all other aspects of producing Certified Organic produce. This is a hands-on position with the field team. Assisting in the development of our seeding plan, coordinating our Organic and GAP certifications, maintaining our food safety plan are all part of the position duties. Knowledge and experience with vegetable production is required. Positive disposition, hardworking, strong organization skills, attention to details, willingness to learn and ability to lead and motivate a team are all highly important.

Our farm has a focus on high quality produce and we grow over 150 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 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.

Coveyou Scenic Farm is located roughly 3 miles from downtown Petoskey, making biking or driving an easy option. The rolling hills and many inland lakes (including Walloon Lake which the farm overlooks) make the region a nature filled and peaceful setting. This area of northern Michigan is usually bustling in the summer with numerous festivals, concerts, and other cultural/recreational opportunities. The region is known for its abundance of lakes, beaches, cherries, and extensive Lake Michigan coastline, and the farm is an hour south of Mackinaw City and an hour north of Traverse City. During the winter we are minutes from two of the best downhill skiing hills in the Midwest and the farm has large tracks of forested land for X-country skiing and snowshoeing.

This position is a full time, year round, salaried position with potential for this person to be a long term key member of our staff. Paid time off, complementary produce and bonus options are part of our compensation plan. There is the potential for on farm housing as well.

Applicants are requested to send a resume along with an email or cover letter that outlines your background, work experiences and passions that make you well suited for this position.

For more information contact:
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