



Position Available: This is a paid position as a seasonal, part-time Apprentice participant in Groundswell's Farmer Training Program for the 2021 season.

Application Deadline: The deadline to apply is December 15th, 2020.

2021 Position Start Date & End Date: This is a 6-month Apprenticeship, from March 30th - September 30th.

Employment Status: This is a part-time, 21-hr/week paid position, based in Ithaca, NY.

Compensation: Participants are paid \$20 an hour, paid every two weeks.

Benefits: Workers Compensation provided, 3 personal days. There are 3 paid vacation days on July 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2021. Health benefits are currently not provided.

Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming is an agriculture education and food justice 501c3 nonprofit based in Ithaca, NY and serving the broader Finger Lakes area. Our core work, based on goals outlined in our Equity Statement, is to foster a multicultural and diverse next generation of sustainable farmers and growers by lessening common barriers to land access, resources and business ownership.

COVID: Expectations and Guidelines regarding COVID are being developed and subject to change based on New York State & CDC requirements. Apprentice participants should anticipate wearing a mask at all times during the program, using PPE, and following social distance precautions when feasible.

Accessibility: Groundswell provides transportation for all program-related travel, starting and ending at the Groundswell Office located at 225 S Fulton St in Ithaca. This includes transport to and from the hosts and education sites, and on any field trips. At this time, we cannot accommodate housing, childcare, or translation services.

The Farmer Training Program summary: This is an introductory program into agriculture with a focus on vegetable and livestock farming in Central New York. The program focuses on the social and environmental impacts of agriculture and addresses critical historical and present day injustices that impact the food system.

Is the Farmer Training Program right for me? This program is designed for someone with little to no experience in agriculture. It is developed through a multicultural lens to create an environment inclusive of the BIPOC community.

What is expected of me?

- To fully commit and participate in the entire 6-month program and respect Rules and Guidelines as outlined in the first week of orientation
- To communicate if there is a reason why you are unable to attend



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- To come ready to work and learn each day, physically and mentally, and be ready for any weather conditions
- To be on time
- Each week we travel to a different host site. Participants should be excited and adaptable to being in a variety of different work environments.

Topics that will be covered over the 6-months include but are not limited to:

- Local/regional Indigenous History
- Land Theft, Slavery and Racism in the food system
- Basics of Farming
- History of Agriculture
- Introduction to Agroecology
- Soil and Land Care
- Vegetable and Herb Production
- Livestock Production
- Basic Carpentry Skills
- Introduction to Farm Business
- Different types of Farm Enterprises
- Healing and Wellness

People best suited for this program ideally:

- Are 18 years or older
- Have a strong desire to reconnect to the land
- Are interested in learning about the food system
- Are willing and able to spend extended periods of time outside
- Are willing to work with their body in sometimes tiring and imperfect weather conditions and willing and able to do uncomfortable tasks like shoveling manure or working in the rain. (If you have needs around this requirement, commit to communicating these to us in advance)
- Have a strong desire to learn how to grow food without chemicals and pesticides
- Have a desire to learn about livestock farming and interest to be around animals
- Are open to participating in conversations around the historical context to our food system as it relates to racism, land theft and colonization
- Are interested in working in the field of agriculture and/or food systems in the future and/or want to grow their own food and support their communities
- Are looking for part-time employment in agriculture and are motivated to engage both as a student, worker and part-time member of the Groundswell community.
- Are willing to provide feedback and engage in program evaluation
- Are comfortable visiting a wide variety of farms
- Understand that at times the work will be tiring and you will need to have stamina
- Have good communication with others
- Respect a wide range of people, cultures and backgrounds
- Are Interested in learning about different types of lifestyles



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Sample Schedule

The program will run for 21hours/week, Tuesday-Thursday for 7 hours/ day

An example of a typical week:

Tuesday:

8:30am: Depart Groundswell Office to host farm

9:00am: Arrive at host farm

9:00am-12pm: Work at host farm site ie. planting seeds, weeding, setting up fencing

12pm-12:30pm: Bring your own lunch (unpaid)

12:30pm-3:30pm: Continue farm work

3:30pm-4:00pm: Return to Groundswell office

Wednesday:

8:30am: Depart Groundswell Office to host farm

9:00am: Arrive at host farm

9:00am-12pm: Work at host farm site ie. planting seeds, weeding, setting up fencing

12pm-12:30pm: Bring your own lunch (unpaid)

12:30pm-3:30pm: Continue farm work

3:30pm-4:00pm: Return to Groundswell office

Thursday:

8:30am: Depart Groundswell Office to education site

9:00am-12:00pm: Educational time (*see topics listed above*)

12pm-12:30pm: Bring your own lunch (unpaid)

12:30pm-3:30pm: Hands-on learning experience at Groundswell's Teaching Farm and/or a tour of a regional farm

3:30pm-4:00pm: Return to Groundswell office

Thank you for your interest in Groundswell's Farmer Training Program