

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES at CROSS ISLAND FARMS

Organic Farm seeks hard-working, highly motivated individuals for a diverse and enlightening experience.

Cross Island Farms, a highly diversified 102-acre organic farm on Wellesley Island in the Thousand Islands Region of the St. Lawrence River, is seeking volunteers for winter/spring/summer/fall 2024. Commitment can range from a few hours a week to full-time on-farm residence for a week or longer.

Farm products include certified organic fruits, vegetables, herbs, edible flowers, goat, beef, and eggs. The farm also features educational farm tours, on-farm rustic camping, and an edible forest garden for U-pick, tours, workshops and special events.

There are four major areas of responsibility in which a volunteer may participate depending on interests.

If regenerative perennial agriculture is of interest the volunteer may assist in developing our one acre “Enchanted Edible Forest Garden” initially planted in 2013. The garden is a permaculture-inspired planting including over 300 varieties of fruit and nut trees, berries, herbs, mushrooms and other edibles, ponds, a bridge and trellis, large and small patios. It is wired for sound and has a bandstand. Possible tasks include designing and building seating areas, “corduroy road” crossings and/or hügelkultur mounds, sheet mulching, weeding, planting perennial vegetables, routine care and maintenance of garden, harvesting fruits, herbs, edible flowers and berries, planting trees, bushes and ground cover plants, pruning, propagating and caring for plants from seeds and cuttings, assisting with marketing perennial products. If interested, the volunteer can assist with marketing a book I have written about my edible forest that was published by Chelsea Green in May of 2022. The title of the book is: *The Home-Scale Forest Garden: How to Plan, Plant and Tend a Resilient Edible Landscape*.

If animal husbandry is of interest, responsibilities may include learning by performing any and all aspects of operating the certified organic meat operation including daily care and feeding of animals, intensive rotational grazing management, construction of fencing and animal housing, assisting with medical care, acclimating baby goats to human contact by daily holding (February through May), and any and all other activities relating to these enterprises.

If annual vegetable growing is of interest, responsibilities may include preparing beds, planting, cultivating, mulching, harvesting, marketing annual vegetables, and maintaining all-season solar heated hoop houses.

For volunteers interested in the business aspects of the farm, projects such as designing and implementing web-based marketing strategies to promote tours, camping, workshops and venue rentals to appropriate target groups are possible. Also designing promotional materials for on-farm events such as workshops and benefit fundraisers, and assisting with all-farm educational tours, creating and conducting children's educational workshops, attending farmer's markets and other community-based promotional events. There is a lot of opportunity for creativity in promotional activities and event planning.

Additional possible projects include savannah building, and forest regeneration,

Volunteers will have the opportunity to focus on areas of greatest interest. Interns are trained and supervised by the farm's owner/managers.

For volunteers in residence we offer room and board in return for an invaluable learning and living experience.

For more information or to apply to volunteer, contact Dani Baker, Co-Owner at danibaker@crossislandfarms.com or call 315-482-3663. Visit www.crossislandfarms.com for more info about the farm and www.enchantededibleforest.com for more information about the edible garden and the book..