Bardenhagen Berries/Homestead Hill CSA

7990 E. Horn Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
bardenhagenberries.com

Job Opening: Flower Farm Crew Member/Intern
(Field Production; Harvest & Arrange; Market/Delivery)

Background:
Bardenhagen Berries is a 180-acre centennial family farm, located in the heart of Leelanau County. It is well known in the community for producing high quality fruit, particularly strawberries and fresh market sweet cherries. With approximately ten acres of bearing strawberries, thirty acres of cherries (sweet and Balaton), and two+ acres of vegetables and cut-flowers (marketed through our Homestead Hill CSA since 2015), the farm represents an opportunity to learn about both diverse production methods and marketing strategies. Depending on the season, around half of what we grow is marketed and consumed locally through direct sales at farmers markets, our roadside farmstand, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), and local wholesale accounts. Other markets include commercial wholesale (fresh market and processing). A 3600 square foot hoophouse is managed primarily to produce tomatoes and cucumbers during summer and an array of salad greens in spring and fall. The farm utilizes integrated pest management for fruit, and organic growing practices for vegetables and cut flowers. The farm is verified by the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and is compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). In 2018 a 128-panel solar array was installed to offset 100% electricity of the used on the farm. A team of family, local labor, interns, and migrant seasonal workers are key to the success of the farm.

Description:
A team of 2-3 people are needed to support production and harvest of cut-flower crops for Homestead Hill CSA (primarily flowers, but may occasionally include vegetables or fruit crops), as well as assist with wholesale delivery of flowers and/or Farmers Market sales. Examples of activities related to production include soil preparation, planting, weeding, mowing, managing irrigation, mulching, trellising, record keeping (production activities take place daily). Harvesting activities include picking, cutting, sorting, washing & packing, flower arranging, recordkeeping, etc. (harvesting is mainly Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays). Marketing activities include selling at Farmers Markets, and/or assisting with delivery of CSA flower shares and wholesale orders (Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays). There are also a multitude of other miscellaneous jobs. Crew members/interns must be highly motivated, flexible, and able to work both independently and as part of a team. This position is appropriate for individuals interested in cut-flower production, working outdoors, and being part of a team dedicated to producing high quality produce and cut-flowers. ***When:*** Full and part-time employment opportunities are available starting as soon as April and extending as late as October. The standard work day starts at 8 AM, but as early as 7 AM during harvest. Priority is given to applicants available to work 40+ hours/week during our busiest season, which runs from mid-May or early June through mid-August. Depending on your interest and time commitment, we will work with you to tailor an internship program.

Requirements:
- Dependable availability during harvest season, on either full-time or part-time basis.
- Good physical health; able to lift 30 lbs and work an eight to ten-hour day outdoors.
- Willingness to adhere to all worker safety and food safety guidelines.
- Driver's License valid in State of Michigan.

Desired Qualifications:
- Previous experience working on a farm (helpful, not required).
- Ability to work independently, as well as part of a team.
- Detail oriented & pride in the quality of one's work.
- Ability to clearly communicate & follow verbal and written instructions. Ability to speak Spanish is a plus.
- Ability to problem solve and work efficiently in a fast-paced environment

Compensation: $10-14/hr, negotiable, depending on previous experience and qualifications. End of season bonus available, based on overall performance and completion of agreed upon length of internship. Depending on season, free produce is available from the farm for your personal use. Possible on-farm housing available.

To Apply: Send an email letter and resume to pam.bardenhagen@gmail.com with your interest, background and availability. Suggested application window: January thru March.