

Farm Apprenticeship – 2024

General Description: Apprenticeship on a 99-acre homestead farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (verdantview.com) run by JP II Institute grad. Twelve-month term preferred, though other arrangements are possible. There may be opportunities to continue beyond the one-year commitment. Along with farm work, apprenticeship includes management of educational tours, participating in Bed & Breakfast hospitality, homesteading workshops (ice cream, cheese, soap-making), and a book list which will progress according to the interest and reading pace of the apprentice. (See suggested readings below.)

Work & Expectations: The apprentice works five days per week (not Sundays), 7:15am to 4:30pm, with breaks for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is enjoyed communally and provided by the farm; lunch is also provided by the farm many days. Responsibilities include feeding of cattle, calves, chickens, goats, and other animals; pasture rotation of cattle; gardening, field management, landscaping, office work, or business errands, based upon farm needs and apprentice interests; management of farm tours; helping with hospitality needs of our guests (check-in, answering questions, being welcoming, etc.). Having one's own car is recommended for personal transportation.

Compensation: Apprentice will have opportunities to learn most aspects of the art and business of homestead farming with animals, working with both animals and with agritourism businesses. Two home-cooked, communal meals on most days (breakfast and lunch). Small private living quarters with bath and kitchenette (stove, oven, sink and refrigerator/freezer) on basement level of a separate guest house. Salary begins at \$1400 / month, typically increasing after 4-months. If no living quarters are required, the salary will begin at \$1800 / month.

To Apply: Interested applicants who are attentive, self-motivated, and bring a positive attitude are encouraged to send their resume to patrick@verdantview.com. After an initial phone call, a work day will be scheduled at the farm, so that both sides can make a better-informed decision.

Farm Description: Verdant View Farm is a 4th-generation homestead farm in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. The 99-acre farm has cows, calves, steers, goats, laying hens, a pig, and other animals. We graze our cattle on 30-acres of pasture using rotational grazing practices, and provide opportunities for guests to learn how to milk a cow by hand. The farm has a thriving bed & breakfast, and an educational mission in relation to sustainable, homestead farming practices. The farm B&B began in 1967 and provides opportunities for visitors to experience farm life through staying on a working farm, participating in morning chores, and sharing a family-style breakfast with the farm crew and other visitors. In addition to the B&B, we offer hour-long guided farm tours to the public. Cattle are 100% grass-fed, and we grow hay, corn, soybeans, wheat, and rye on ~60 acres. The farm is located in the heart of Lancaster's Amish community, in Paradise, Pennsylvania.

Book list

Books selected and discussed according to the interests of the apprentice. Here are a few suggestions on sustainable agriculture, economics, and the meaning of farm work.

Agriculture, Food, Animals

- Bringing it to the Table (non-fiction) – Wendell Berry
- That Distant Land (fiction) – Wendell Berry
- Dirt to Soil – Gabe Brown
- The Independent Farmstead – Shawn and Beth Dougherty
- All Creatures Great and Small – James Herriot
- Animal Forms and Patterns – Adolf Portmann
- You Can Farm – Joel Salatin

Economy and Localism

- Small is Beautiful (selections) – E.F. Schumacher
- Home Economics – Wendell Berry
- Laudato si – Pope Francis
- An Essay on the Restoration of Property – Hilaire Belloc
- Ecological Economics - Selected Essays of Herman Daly

Meaning of (Farm) Work

- Rule of St. Benedict
- Shop Class as Soulcraft – Matthew Crawford
- We Are Each Other's Harvest – Natalie Baszile
- The Long Loneliness – Dorothy Day
- What the Amish Teach Us – Donald Kraybill
- Omnivore's Dilemma – Michael Pollan
- Leisure, the Basis of Culture – Josef Pieper
- Letter to a Young Farmer – Gene Logsdon

Contact Information (on next page)

Contact Information

Patrick & Elisa Fleming
Verdant View Farm
429 Strasburg Rd.
Paradise, PA 17562

website: www.verdantview.com
email: patrick@verdantview.com
elisa@verdantview.com