



DeVries Nature Conservancy

Heritage Farm Apprenticeship Program

DeVries Nature Conservancy is a non-profit organization in Owosso, MI. Our Mission is to inspire curiosity and foster learning about Michigan's natural history and rural past by providing engaging, individualized, and unique experiences to the public. We are now accepting applications for the Heritage Farm Apprenticeship program. For more

information on DeVries Nature Conservancy, our programs, and our stewardship goals, visit

www.devriesnature.org.

The Heritage Farm encompasses our agricultural programs at DeVries. These include our market farm, poultry production, historical agriculture demonstrations, and our mobile farmer's market. The goal of the Heritage Farm is to present opportunities for the public to learn about agriculture. We combine old and new methods our vegetable farm, creating an environment of learning and productivity.

Our apprenticeship program offers an opportunity for hands-on learning in our agricultural program. We're seeking interested individuals who want a chance not just to perform tasks on a farm, but to be involved in the decision-making and planning that goes into running a successful farming operation. The apprentice will learn about all aspects of vegetable production, from starting seedlings in soil blocks in a greenhouse to cultivation with tractors to harvest and proper storage of produce. The apprentice will take on responsibility for planting, maintaining, harvesting, and selling produce. In addition to learning about vegetable production, apprentices will have opportunities to learn about raising free range poultry, driving a team of horses, beekeeping, and providing meaningful on-farm education.

Job Title: Apprentice Farmer

Reports to: Farm Manager

Job Description: The apprentice will learn all aspects of managing a market farm and historical agriculture venue.

Job Summary: The apprentice will work closely with the staff of the Heritage Farm to complete various tasks around the farm. Tasks can be catered to the individual's interests and abilities, as well as their desired apprenticeship outcome. The program pays a stipend of **\$750 per month** and runs from **Mid-May to the end of October**. The apprentice will work Tuesday through Friday, with the option of working at the farmer's market on Saturday. Work hours are **8 AM to 5 PM** with an hour for lunch. The apprentice gets one week (four days) of paid vacation time. The apprentice is also entitled to produce and on-farm products. There is no housing available on the farm.

Requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license. Previous farm experience is preferred but not required. Applicants must be self-motivated and able to work independently, must be able to lift 50 pounds and work outside in all conditions, and must have a willingness to learn and a positive attitude.

To Apply: Please send a cover letter and resume to the Farm Manager at doudman@devriesnc.org, or mail cover letter and resume to 2635 N M-52, Owosso, MI 48867.