

The Apprentice and Willing Worker Program

“(My apprenticeship) was truly learning by doing.”



“I am definitely going to stay with agriculture as a career. This experience overall has been great. It has shown me that my once seemingly far fetched dream of being an organic farmer is quite realistic and attainable, and that its fulfillment is only dependent upon work and focus”



NOFA-VT
PO Box 697
Richmond, VT
05477

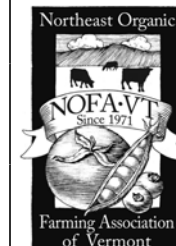


The Apprentice and Willing Worker Program



The knowledge I have gained is invaluable and will benefit me for a lifetime. Working on a Vermont farm has been a rewarding, challenging, and unforgettable experience.

-Former Apprentice



NOFA Vermont
www.nofavt.org

The Apprentice and Willing Worker Program

NOFA-VT Apprentice & Willing Worker Program helps to connect farms and individuals interested in working on a farm. NOFA-VT believes that having the opportunity to work on an organic farm is a valuable and rewarding form of education. Vermont farms offer exciting learning opportunities whether you are looking for a more structured experience (apprenticeship) or general farm work (willing worker). Farmers seek individuals who are:

- Committed to working hard
- Interested in learning about agriculture and production farming
- Passionate about connecting people to their food
- Interested in hands-on learning experiences.

NOFA-VT

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) is a non-profit organization of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system for the benefit of current and future generations.



How to Apply

Visit our NOFA-VT website (www.nofavt.org) and register with us to view the Online Farmer Directory free of charge.

Registration involves filling out an apprentice application. This application provides the farmers with information about your personality and gives them an idea of your expectations for farm employment. Applicants are encouraged to contact the farms and begin a conversation about employment possibilities. Farmers may choose to view the apprentice listings and contact you directly.

The Online Farm Directory

The Online Farm Directory profiles over 60 farms looking for apprentices and willing workers and provides information that may help you locate the appropriate apprenticeship. Each farm has a half page listing which describes the farm, skills to be learned, area of expertise, and contact info.

The directory allows you to view the apprentice opportunities and receive contact information to communicate with the farmer directly. We encourage you to take some time to visit the farm where you are interested in working and meet the farmer who you will be working with, as the success of your apprenticeship often hinges on the host-apprentice relationship.

Apprentice or Willing Worker?

NOFA-VT uses the following definitions to clarify the difference between an apprentice and willing worker: An **apprenticeship** is an educational opportunity with some structured learning time, where apprentices are explained the 'whys' and not just the 'hows' of the work to be done, and are generally given a diversified learning experience which enables them to learn with a demonstrated depth of skill.

A **willing worker** is engaged in farm work with less emphasis on the educational component. They are generally paid by the hour and the focus of education is more to perform the daily tasks than to provide a deeper understanding of farming.

Benefits of the Program

Invitation to NOFA-VT sponsored trainings and workshops throughout the growing season, geared specifically for farm apprentices and new or aspiring farmers.

- Reduced admission at our Winter Conference.
- Discounts on books sold through NOFA-VT.
- Participation in a growing network of apprentices and new and aspiring farmers. Meet other individuals who share a commitment to sustainable farming.