

**RYDER FARM – BREWSTER, NY**  
**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
**Full-Time Organic Farm Manager**  
**for 2016 Growing Season**

This is an ideal position for someone interested in certified organic agriculture and looking to gain experience operating a diversified vegetable and flower operation with multiple marketing channels!

**DESCRIPTION OF RYDER FARM**

In 1795, Eleazer Ryder purchased 120 acres in Brewster, NY in order to establish a productive homestead for his family. Ryder Farm is the continuation of that legacy.

Although the property has history in dairy, Ryder Farm has been growing organic vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruit since 1978 and became USDA Certified Organic in 2003. Ryder Farm is a staple at the Union Square Saturday Greenmarket in New York City, supports a 100 member CSA, and sells from its roadside farm stand, at the local Brewster farmers market, and via wholesale accounts. Ryder Farm also offers personalized floral arrangements using its own cut flowers. Finally, the spacious lawn and stage that abut the historic Ryder farmhouse are host to community events, weddings, parties, and festivals.

Ryder Farm strives to be a profitable homestead that supports education and community. Over the years, dozens of interns and apprentices have learned the farming trade on the Ryder property through collaboration with WWOOF, NOFA-NY, GrowNYC, and MESA, the Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture. Ryder Farm also participates in the Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training network, which enables employees to attend bi-weekly workshops on other farms in the area. Also, coexisting on the property is a non-profit artists retreat called SPACE at Ryder Farm.

These apprenticeships, combined with the strong CSA membership, loyal shoppers at market, and artists in residence have created a robust community that surround and sustain Ryder Farm.

**DESCRIPTION OF FARM MANAGER POSITION**

The Farm Manager will work under the Ryder Farm owners and is primarily responsible for the daily oversight of vegetable, herb, and flower production. Applicants will have the opportunity to work side-by-side with the current manager or receive comprehensive, introductory training.

Ryder Farm has an established crop plan which the Farm Manager will implement, but a multi-season Farm Manager will be asked to collaborate on crop planning. The Farm Manager help to hire, instruct, and lead a crew of 10-12 apprentices in all aspects of seasonal production, including greenhouse work, transplanting, tractor cultivation, irrigation, pest and disease control, weed management, harvest, washing/packing, preparing for market days, marketing and cover cropping.

**ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

-A multi-season Farm Manager will be increasingly relied upon for crop planning and business decisions; this Farm Manager may be invited to exercise partial ownership over the farm business.

-Owners of Ryder Farm have considered constructing a commercial kitchen, which could make various value-added enterprises available to the incoming Farm Manager.

-Ryder Farm has six fenced and watered pasture fields that are currently underutilized. The incoming Farm Manager could work with Ryder Farm owners to establish a small livestock enterprise, raise laying hens, or grow broilers, ducks, and turkeys.

-Ryder Farm also has 60 wooded acres, which could be used as silvopasture for livestock and/or to develop mushroom or foraged enterprises.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Minimum 2 full seasons of field experience in organic farming.
- Proven leadership and management skills.
- Proven experience operating tractors and driving box trucks.
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs repeatedly.
- Valid driver's license.
- Willingness to serve as an educator.
- Positive attitude, patience, and enthusiasm for cooperative living.
- Open and honest communication skills, for Ryder Farm owners, crew, and customers.
- Ability to follow directions, receive constructive criticism, and learn from mistakes.
- Ability to maintain a clean, safe, and organized work environment.
- Flexible to changes in weather and work plan.

## **WORKPLACE POLICIES**

- Lunches are cooked and eaten communally as a crew.
- Crew will meet weekly, usually on Tuesdays, to overview the prior week and upcoming work week, and daily check-ins serve to instruct and motivate the crew.
- Sturdy footwear is required while working in the field, and long hair must be tied back.
- Alcohol and drug use is strictly prohibited on the farm.
- During work hours, cell phones should be used for farm business only.
- Pets and visitors are negotiable.

## **HOURS & COMPENSATION**

- The Farm Manager commitment is 40 hours over a 5-day workweek, generally Monday-Friday, during the growing season of March through October. Off-season hours are negotiable.
- The Farm Manager will be compensated \$12,600, to be paid in weekly installments, and provided with on-site housing, meals, and fresh farm produce. Housing includes a private room, basic furniture, WiFi, and access to a shared kitchen and bathroom. Farm Manager may also be offered a percentage of sales, based on experience and ability to increase Ryder Farm efficiencies and production.

## **TO APPLY**

Please send letter of interest, resume, and 3 references via email to [ryderfarmorganic@aol.com](mailto:ryderfarmorganic@aol.com) with the subject line "Farm Manager Position."