

Bardenhagen Berries/Homestead Hill CSA

7990 E. Horn Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Tel: 231-271-3026

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

Background:

Bardenhagen Berries is a 180-acre 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, stem-on sweet cherries. The farm has approximately 11 acres of bearing strawberries, 40+ acres of cherries (sweet and Balaton), and, since 2015, three acres of vegetables and cut-flowers (marketed through our Homestead Hill CSA). The farm utilizes integrated pest management for fruit, and organic growing practices for vegetables and flowers. The farm is also verified by the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and is compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

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 assist with 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. Farm Assistants must be highly motivated, flexible, and able to work both independently and as part of a team. Work may at times be physically strenuous and/or performed in undesirable weather; a worker with good physical health and a positive attitude will perform well in this work environment. 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 for those who like to start early!

Desired Qualifications:

- Previous experience in farming or gardening.
- Good physical health; able to lift 30 lbs and work an eight to ten-hour day.
- 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.
- Driver's License valid in State of Michigan (optional).
- Previous experience driving tractors and/or operating farm machinery is not required but would be a definite plus.

Compensation: \$9-11+/hr, negotiable based on previous experience. Possible end of season bonus, based on performance and completion of season. Depending on season, free vegetables and flowers from the farm for your personal use! Farm lunches provided on many days during harvest.

To Apply: Contact us for a job application, and/or send cover letter and resume to Homestead Hill CSA, 7990 E. Horn Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653 or via email to pam.bardenhagen@gmail.com.