

Bardenhagen Berries/Homestead Hill CSA

7990 E. Horn Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Tel: 231-271-3026

Job Opening: Fruit Production Assistant

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 four to six people are needed to support to production and harvest of crops (primarily strawberries and cherries but may also occasionally include vegetables and flowers). Examples of activities include moving harvest ladders and containers (lugs, pails, etc.), stacking fruit on pallets, assisting with cherry shaking crew, loading and unloading vehicles, communicating with Harvest Crew; sorting fruit, and delivery of fruit to wholesale customers. There are also a multitude of other miscellaneous jobs (e.g. pruning, planting, weeding, mowing, mulching, washing, box folding, recordkeeping, etc.). Fruit Farm Assistants may occasionally help with CSA operations (see below). Depending on previous experience and skills, Assistants may also participate in driving tractors, and/or operating machinery (with proper training only). **When:** This is a seasonally recurring hourly position extending from May or June into mid-August. (Additional opportunities may extend earlier or later.) A commitment for strawberry and cherry harvest (mid-June to early August) is desired. Depending on experience, and ability to work independently, additional work opportunities are available starting as soon as April and as late as October. During the approximate 6-7 week harvest season, the standard schedule is approximately 7-12 am, and 1-5 pm, Monday-Friday, with Saturdays usually being a ½ day. Outside of harvest, work schedule is generally 8-12 am and 1-5 pm. Employment can be negotiated as either part-time or full-time.

Employment Requirements:

- Must be a minimum of age 14. Parent signature is required for minors under 18.
- Willingness to adhere to all worker safety and food safety guidelines.
- Dependable availability during harvest season, on either full-time or part-time basis.

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 (min. age 16).

Compensation: \$9.25-11+/hr, negotiable based on previous experience. Possible end of season bonus, based on performance and completion of season. Farm lunches provided on many days during harvest. Also, strawberries and cherries for you and your family!

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