

# Bardenhagen Berries/Homestead Hill CSA

7990 E. Horn Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Tel: 231-271-3026

## Job Opening: Harvest Crew

### Background:

Bardenhagen Berries is a 180-acre centennial 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 sweet cherries. With approximately twelve acres of bearing strawberries, thirty acres of cherries (sweet and Balaton), and two+ acres of vegetables and cut-flowers (marketed through our Homestead Hill CSA since 2015), the farm represents an opportunity to learn about both diverse production methods and marketing strategies. Depending on the season, around half of what we grow is marketed and consumed locally through direct sales at farmers markets, our roadside farmstand, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), and local wholesale accounts. Other markets include commercial wholesale (fresh market and processing). A 3600 square foot hoophouse is managed primarily to produce tomatoes and cucumbers during summer and an array of salad greens in spring and fall. The farm utilizes integrated pest management for fruit, and organic growing practices for vegetables and cut flowers. The farm is verified by the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and is compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). In 2018 a 128-panel solar array was installed to offset 100% electricity of the used on the farm. A team of family, local labor, interns, and migrant seasonal workers are key to the success of the farm.

### Description:

The more you pick, the more money you earn! A great job for hardworking, motivated people who can perform physical labor, during varying weather conditions. Strawberry season usually runs for around three weeks from third week of June to first week of July. Work is days usually 7-12 am, and 1-4 pm, 7 days a week. Sundays work is only in morning. Sweet Cherry season usually runs for around three to four weeks starting during the first week of July, ending in early August. Cherry harvest requires the ability of working on 6-12 ft ladders. Cherry harvest work schedule is usually 7-12 am, and 1-5 pm, Monday-Friday, with Saturdays only 7-12 am. Motivated workers earn \$10-\$25/hour harvesting, plus a possible bonus at the end of the season. In an average year, workers are able to earn \$3500-9000 in a 6-7 week harvest season, depending on skill.

### Qualifications:

- Willingness to adhere to all worker safety and food safety guidelines.
- Availability and commitment to entire harvest season (strawberries and/or sweet cherries).
- Good physical health; able to lift 30 pounds and bend over, squat, and kneel long periods of time.
- For sweet cherry harvest, should be able to work comfortably from 6-12 ft ladders.
- Previous experience in picking fruit, especially strawberries. Should be able to pick a minimum average of 2 flats/buckets strawberries per hour or approximately 35-40 lbs of sweet cherries per hour.
- Attention to detail. Pride in the quality of one's work.
- Ability to clearly communicate.

**Compensation:** Pay is based on number of units (10 quart pail, 8 quart flat, or pounds – depending on crop), with a minimum wage of \$9.25/hr guaranteed. A bonus is offered, based on quality and work attendance. Experienced pickers typically average much more than minimum wage. Depending on availability, housing may be provided free of charge, while employed by farm. Also, strawberries and cherries for you and your family!

**To Apply:** Send an email letter to [pam.bardenhagen@gmail.com](mailto:pam.bardenhagen@gmail.com) with your interest, background and availability. Or call 231-271-3026,