

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 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:

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 \$9-\$25/hour harvesting, plus a possible bonus at the end of the season. In an average year, workers are able to earn \$3500-8000 in a 6-7 week harvest season, depending on skill.

Qualifications:

- 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.
- Flexibility.

Requirements:

- 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 comfortable from 6-12 ft ladders.
- Must be a minimum of age 14. Parent signature is required for minors under 18.
- Availability and commitment to entire harvest season (strawberries and/or sweet cherries).

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!