**EarthDance Organic Farming Apprenticeship Program 2013**

**Purpose of the EarthDance Apprenticeship:** To grow farmers and gardeners for the St. Louis region, through hands-on operation of a successful farm.

**EarthDance’s Commitments to Apprentices**

1. Provide a positive working and learning atmosphere

2. Provide quality foundational hands-on education in organic agriculture, from planning through market

3. Provide apprentices networking opportunities with farmers and other agricultural professionals

4. Provide apprentices the opportunity to learn from a variety of farming enterprises, through visits to area farms

5. Maintain an open door communication policy

6. Utilize apprentice feedback to improve the apprenticeship program and overall EarthDance operations

7. Provide a share of the harvest in the form of a CSA share (dependant upon individual participation in apprenticeship program duties)

**Four Foundational Components of the Apprenticeship**

**1. Field Work**

* Field work begins Monday, March 11th
* 8 hours/week for 34 weeks totaling 264- 16 hours of vacation= 248 hours
* Each farm shift will include a field walk (mini-class)
* 2 weeks off (need **not** be consecutive) - email Rachel when you know vacation dates
* You CAN change shifts at any time or work extra shifts to “bank” hours
* Farmers market hours and 4 outreach hours count toward graduation hours
* Enrichment sessions are counted separately.
* Record your hours daily in the Farm Work Log; they will be tallied weekly.

**2013 Weekly Farm & Apprenticeship Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *M* | *Tu* | *W* | *Th* | *F* | *Sa* | *Su* |
| *1-5pm* | *8-12pm*  *12-4pm* | *No Field Work Shifts* | *No Field Work Shifts* | *8am-12pm*  *12pm-4pm* | *8-12pm*  *12-4pm* | *No Field Work Shifts* |
| *Enrichment 6:00-7:30pm* |  |  |  |  | *Ferguson &*  *Tower Grove Farmers Mkt 8am-12pm, shift 7am-1pm* |  |

**2. Enrichment Sessions**

* Enrichment sessions begin Monday, March 4th
* Includes Farm-based sessions, Field Trips, and Classroom time
* Every Mon. 6:00-7:30pm except Memorial Day and Labor Day (OFF for holidays)
* Please be on time!
* 80% attendance/participation (26 out of 33 sessions) required to graduate with honors
* Inspiration: each apprentice will share an Inspiration with the rest of the group at one Monday evening session over the course of the program. The purpose of Inspiration is to remind each other of the joy and purpose we find in our farming work, in nature, and in the good food movement. An Inspiration could be a quote, a poem, a reading from a book, a song—even a farm-fresh snack. Be creative and share something that makes you smile!
* Some enrichment sessions will be open to the public at a cost of $20 per session
* You may invite 1 guest to 1 enrichment session free of charge
* Solstice potluck on the farm is free to all

**3. Farmer’s Markets**

* Ferguson and Tower Grove Farmers Markets: Saturdays 8am-12pm May - October.
* Market shifts include set-up and breakdown, 7am-1pm
* You are responsible for your market shifts; if you need to miss one, you will need to find a substitute and communicate the change to your shift leader
* You are responsible for writing one market report over the course of the season
* Apprentices are invited to represent EarthDance at community outreach events such as Earth Day, health fairs, etc. Four hours of this type of work can be counted toward your 248 graduation hours
* Market schedule is forthcoming

**4. CSA**

* Apprentices and staff receive a CSA share 24 weeks of the program, scheduled to begin mid-May
* You may pick up your share after Saturday’s harvest shift , or on Monday before/ after enrichment
* CSA membership is contingent upon your active participation in the program. ( You must stay current with your total “running” hours OR work 8 hours on any given week to be CSA eligible)

**Other Useful Info**

**Outreach**

* Community Outreach events, such as St. Louis EarthDay, are opportunities to represent EarthDance to the public
* You are invited to participate in outreach events, but they are not mandatory
* 4 hours of outreach can be counted toward your 248 graduation hours

**Graduation**

* Graduation will take place the second week of November
* All apprentices who remain active in the program for the duration of the nine-month apprenticeship will be recognized at graduation
* Apprentices who complete their 248 graduation hours (farm work, markets, and optional outreach), as well as attending 80% or more of the enrichment sessions will graduate with honors and receive a certificate of completion for the apprenticeship
* Apprentices who graduate with honors will be entitled to attend any future enrichment sessions free of charge

**Assessments and Feedback**

In order to gauge the effectiveness of EarthDance’s apprenticeship program, we use several different types of assessments, and solicit your feedback at regular intervals.

* Pre- and Post-Assessment of Apprenticeship Curriculum
* Field check-ins 2-3 times over the course of the program
* Mid- and Post- apprenticeship feedback forms
* Skills Self-Assessment

**Communication**

Please communicate needs, concerns and absences to EarthDance staff. Each staff member has an “open door” to you!

* We will communicate primarily through email to the google group. Please check your email regularly
* Staff will send two weekly emails: Farm Updates and Apprenticeship Updates
* You are welcome to use the google group to ask questions, arrange carpools, post other educational opportunities, look for market subs, etc.

**Logistics**

**Tools:** Mark any tools you own with your name. In the past, apprentices have found that a high quality pair of pruners is **the most useful tool** to invest in for the program. Pruners are included on this list of tools you may wish to purchase for yourself:

* Hula/stirrup/shuffle hoe
* Harvest knife
* Pruners
* 5 Gallon Bucket

**Clothing:** Clothing choices are important for not only sun safety but also protecting yourself from plant material (thorns, burrs, poison ivy etc).

The following are suggested:

* Gloves
* Wear long durable pants like jeans or ‘construction worker pants’ (i.e. Dickies, Carharts, etc.)
* Wear a thin long-sleeved shirt for sun and scratch protection
* No open toed shoes allowed
* Wear white or lighter colors as they reflect the heat
* Sunscreen or sun protection should be utilized
* Insect repellent is also a good idea (If you choose to use any DEET products please apply prior to coming onto the farm.)
* A wide-brimmed hat that covers the face, ears and neck
* You may want a bandana or cooling cloth to wear around your neck or brow

**Bathroom Facilities:**

* Bathroom and Shower Available in farm house basement

**Parking and Driving:**

* Please park on Dade Avenue
* Apprentices may not drive their own vehicles on to the farm without permission.

**Tobacco Products:**

Tobacco products, including cigarettes and chewing tobacco, may harbor disease organisms that affect other agricultural products. Therefore, these products should not be used on the farm.

* When doing farm work at EarthDance, please wash or sanitize hands after using these products

**EarthDance Contacts**

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| **EarthDance Office**  233 S. Dade Ave.  Ferguson, MO 63135  314-521-1006  **Office Hours**  Mon 1-5pm  Tues, Wed & Thurs 8:30 - 4:30  Fri 8:30 am - 2pm  **Mueller Farm**  233 S. Dade Ave.  Ferguson MO, 63135  *We ask that you visit the farm only during field work or by appointment.*  **About EarthDance:**  EarthDance sustainably grows food, farmers and community one small farm at a time, through hands on education and delicious experiences. EarthDance farms at the historic Mueller Organic Farm in Ferguson, Missouri.  Find out more at...  [www.earthdancefarms.org](http://www.earthdancefarms.org)  [www.facebook.com/earthdancefarms](http://www.facebook.com/earthdancefarms)  [www.flickr.com/earthdancefarms](http://www.flickr.com/earthdancefarms)  [www.youtube.com/earthdancefarms](http://www.youtube.com/earthdancefarms)  [www.twitter.com/earthdancefarms](http://www.twitter.com/earthdancefarms) | **Molly Rockamann**  Founding Director  cell: 314-348-6999  molly@earthdancefarms.org  **Josh Mueller**  Farm Manager  cell: 630 917-4350  josh@earthdancefarms.org  **Rachel Levi**  Farm and Community Education Coordinator  cell: 773-398-6515  rachel@earthdancefarms.org  **Mandy Brooks**  Development Director  mandy@earthdancefarms.org  **Matt Lebon**  Volunteer Coordinator  volunteer@earthdancefarms.org  **Stephanie Jansing**  Assistant Farm Manager  cell: 513 484-5452 (no texts)  farm@earthdancefarms.org |