MOFGA APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
Meeting Prospective Mentors: Guidelines for Apprentices

Communication is the key to apprentice-mentor relationships. Use this checklist as a guide during your initial meeting/interview to make sure everyone is clear about what they’re getting into.

<table>
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<th>Things to ascertain about the farm, the farmer, and the experience</th>
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**Work**
- The work schedule – hours/day, days/week, when & how often to expect to work overtime
- Type of work to expect – repetitive, boring, independent
- Time off – hours per week, days per season
- Usual rising and quitting time
- Allowance for emergency time off
- Expectations of apprentices during time off, i.e., watering, stoking stoves, animal chores, child care
- Work/safety clothing and tool requirements - boots, rain gear, ear protection, gloves, etc

**Education and training**
- Mentor Farmer’s teaching style and techniques
- Educational plans and resources available
- Amount of time farmer can/will spend working alongside and training apprentices (does the farmer work off the farm during the growing season?)
- Use of machinery – unlimited, restricted, supervised, unsupervised
- Access to Farm Training Projects – time off, transportation

**The exchange arrangement**
- Stipend – fixed, graduated, reward for staying to end of season, profit-share, incentives
- Room & board
- Insurance coverage

**The household & living arrangements**
- Housing, bathing & cooking arrangements
- Meals – shared or separate, dietary restrictions, how much food is provided as part of compensation (which non-farm-raised items are provided? Which are your responsibility?)
- Expectations for cooking and clean-up chores, routine house cleaning
- Terms of access to amenities in main house – phone, internet, laundry, tv/video, shower, hot tub, etc
- Privacy needs of farmers and you.
- Visitor policy – length of stay, work requirement, paying for meals, etc

**Health concerns**
- Any disabilities or chronic issues that may slow the farmer down or limit his/her activity
- Allergies

**Personal**
- Personal temperament
- Philosophies and ideologies
- Taste in music and art
- Approach to smoking, drugs, alcohol, gambling, etc
Things to share with prospective mentors about you

Work
General attitude about work
Work ethic and experience level
Enthusiasm and desire to learn
Strength and stamina – how well you know your body and your physical limits
Availability for overtime & weekend work
Feelings about selling & marketing
Feelings about boring, repetitive work
Feelings about working alone
Time off and vacation needs

Education and training
Expectations for learning and training – what you want to get out of your experience
Your personal learning style – experiential, visual, auditory, autodidactic, etc
Your appetite for reading and research
Your intellectual approach to farming & agriculture
Your motivations for apprenticing and plans for future

The exchange arrangement
Your financial needs
Your insurance needs

The household & living arrangements
Your needs for interaction/privacy
Your level of creature comfort needs
Your cooking experience
Your dietary restrictions
Your household skills and organization
Pets

Health concerns
Any disabilities or chronic issues that may slow you down or limit your activity
Allergies

Personal
Personal temperament
Philosophies and ideologies
Feelings about killing animals (if applicable)
Taste in music and art
Hobbies, interests, ancillary skills
Approach to smoking, drugs, alcohol, gambling, etc

Special considerations for couples
Length of relationship
Commitment level
Ever lived together?
Ever worked together?