Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| MOFGA usePaid: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Online: \_\_\_\_\_\_Code #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

Farm Apprentice Program

P.O. Box 170 Unity, ME 04988

(207) 568-4142

email: education@mofga.org web: www.mofga.org

FARMER APPLICATION

Farm Name: MOFGA Member?

Contact Person: Certified Organic?

Mailing Address: Phone:

(best time to call)

Farm Address: Farm County:

(if different)

E-Mail: Website:

Number of apprentices sought:

The host farm online searchable database helps prospective apprentices find farms that match their interests. The next two selections are an integral part to the database.

Please classify your farm for the online database:

 Farm Type (select as many that apply)

🞏Vegetables/Fruit

🞏 Dairy

🞏 Other Livestock

🞏 Value-added/Processing

🞏 Diverse, integrated crop/livestock

🞏 Nursery Stock

🞏 Educational

🞏 Homesteading

🞏 Cut Flowers

🞏 Military Veteran

 Marketing Strategy (select key marketing channels)

🞏 Community Supported Agriculture

🞏 Other direct-to-customer (Farm Stand, Farmers’ Market, Restaurant etc.)

🞏 Wholesale

🞏 Other

What is the ideal time period for your apprenticeships? Do you have a minimum or maximum length required? Do you have year-round opportunities?

Describe the physical setting of your farm and the nature of the community in which you live (*e.g.*, acreage, woods/fields, buildings, near town/remote area, recreation available, etc.):

Describe your farm operation (*e.g.*, livestock, crops, bees, herbs, forestry work, greenhouse, orchards, building projects, haying, maple sugaring, meat processing, level of mechanization, livestock management system, products made, marketing, dairy, stock dogs, etc.). Please note any unique or special features, as well as any potential hazards:

Is your operation certified organic? If not, to what degree are organic methods used on your farm? Please describe any practices/materials that would not be certifiable.

Describe the work to be performed and the skills to be learned by an apprentice (*e.g.*, care of livestock, planting, cultivation, harvesting, selling at market, use of equipment, carpentry, food preservation, woods-work, etc.).

List any requirements of employment (*e.g.* particular skills, certifications, ability to perform certain tasks, drivers license etc.):

What do you expect of an apprentice? (*e.g.*, hours to be worked in a day, days to be worked in a week, heavy physical labor, time off, non-farm expectations (babysitting, errands, other work), etc.) What level of independence do you require of your apprentices?

Explain how you provide instruction, training and feedback to apprentices (*e.g.*, work along with the apprentice, demonstration, apprentice working alone, training “classes,” reading to be done, extent of supervision by yourself or others, Farm Training Projects, other trainings, system and schedule for check ins, etc.):

Are you a full-time farmer? If not, describe what other occupation(s) you have:

Please describe your level of daily or weekly involvement of apprentices.

Describe compensation for apprentices including stipends, wages, piecework, room, board, produce from the farm etc. Are there special conditions for compensation (such as experience level, duration of commitment, probationary period, etc.)?

Do you provide housing? 🞏 On-farm 🞏 Off-farm 🞏 Rental 🞏 No housing

If no, please describe local housing options for apprentices

If yes, please describe the accommodations, facilities and explain any room and board arrangements (*e.g.*, would the apprentice live with the farmer, live apart but eat with the farmer, are there young children, what household duties would the apprentice share, how are dietary restrictions handled, rules about smoking/drinking/drugs, are there any other important considerations or rules?):

Do you require a prospective apprentice to visit your farm before a final arrangement is made?

Describe any trial period.

Do you have a written Farm Employees manual? What is your process for evaluating work and giving feedback? What is your process for disciplinary action if necessary?

Describe yourself, farming experience, philosophy, goals & interests:

Please describe any ideological and/ or political views that may affect an apprentices experience on your farm. How would navigate if apprentices views are different from your own?

By participating in the MOFGA apprenticeship program you agree to uphold the “MOFGA Apprenticeship Program Core Values”. Please briefly describe how these 4 values are exemplified on your farm.

References- **Must be recent within the past 2 years**

Former apprentice reference Email Phone

Former apprentice reference Email Phone

Personal reference Relationship/Affiliation Email Phone

Please return your completed application (including Farm Synopsis Form and signed mentor agreement below) with the $35 fee ($45 for non-MOFGA members) to:

MOFGA Apprenticeship Program,

P.O. Box 170, Unity, ME 04988

or email to education@mofga.org.

Thanks!