



Growing Farmers. Growing Food.

Big River Farms, a program of [The Food Group](#), is an Organic Incubator training program located in Marine on St. Croix. We offer 1/8 to 2 acres of land to farmers, train, and learn the skills to grow their business. We also provide market access and support for farmers in our program. We are focused on properly stewarding the land through different farming practices that support the health, healing, and sustainability of the soil. As an education farm, we provide hands-on education classes and workshops that show case the skills and resources that we have available to make that happen.

This year we are focused on having an education demonstration plot where we will have numerous ways to show different mulching, irrigation, minimum to no-till, fertility systems. We are seeking someone to fulfill a paid apprenticeship position for this 2022 growing season.

The apprenticeship at Big River Farms includes full immersion into small scale (about 1 acre) vegetable production, while focusing primarily on soil health practices. The program is designed to empower farmer soil stewardship. Apprentices should be passionate about farming as a career and will gain training and practice working on many aspects of growing vegetables (Greenhouse production, Transplanting, Bed Prep, Mulching, Plant Care, Weed Management, Harvest, Seed Saving). Farm work is structured to allow the apprentice maximum learning experience.

The program is a hands-on working/learning with:

- Opportunity to experience various Soil Health Strategies including:
 - Minimal Soil Disturbance
 - Cropping Systems (Crop Diversity, Intercropping, Cover Cropping)
- Training in Regenerative Land Management

Skills & Qualifications

- At least 1 full season of farming (2-3 preferred)
- Passionate about a career in farming and interested in soil stewardship
- Able to lift and carry 50 lbs and work outside in adverse weather conditions
- Patience, flexibility, strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Experience and/or appropriate training working with people of color
- People of color and those from other underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply
- Open to farm methods, welcoming of feedback and willing to experiment
- Transportation



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Education and Leadership

Apprentices are included in farm planning and can expect:

- Orientation and clear instruction on the “why’s” and “how’s” of farm tasks.
- Exposure to a wide variety of regenerative farming techniques
- Participation In Field Days and Farmers Led Soil Health Assessments
- Exposure to agricultural organizations, resources, and tools

Desired start time frame: Mid April 2022

End date: October 31, 2022

Time commitment expectations: average about 20 hours/week

Pay: \$18/hr, maximum pay is \$8,400 for the season

Interested candidates, please submit resume and cover letter to Tiffany LaShae tlashae@umn.edu