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Thank you for your interest Skarsgard Farms' Apprenticeship Program. The following is an overview of the aims and objectives of our programs. Following the overview are nine application questions for you to answer and return. Please complete all the requirements of the application and our intern coordinator will be in contact with you.

Skarsgard Farms (SF) is proud to offer an apprenticeship for aspiring farmers. This program strives to provide apprentices with a well-rounded farm experience that includes many different elements of farming. Not only will apprentices gain direct practical farming experience through this program, but it is also designed to integrate a strong educational component. This model encourages the growth of individual farm-related interests through the support and development of educational goals and projects. The hope in offering this program is to make the apprentice-experience at SF as mutually beneficial and positive as possible for all members of the SF crew.

The mission of the Skarsgard Farms Apprenticeship Program is to provide its apprentices with the means to integrate the theories and principles of organic farming through cooperative education and practical job experience thereby preparing and training competent entry level farmers.

Skarsgard Farms' apprenticeship is a program specifically designed to help individuals interested in pursuing a career in agriculture. This is facilitated by providing individuals with an in-depth understanding of the inner workings and operations of a large-scale organic farm. Most of our apprentices are individuals who aspire to someday own and operate their own farms. In fact, during the 2007-2008 seasons three out of five SF apprentices went on to start, and are now currently running, their own farms. This apprenticeship is not appropriate for individuals pursuing hobby-gardening, and part-time positions are not available.

SF emphasizes the idea that this apprenticeship can be "*what the individual makes it*". This motto addresses the idea that every person is ultimately responsible for setting the tone of their personal apprenticeship experience. The apprenticeship attracts a wide variety of beginning farmers who come to Skarsgard Farms for a diverse number of reasons and personal goals. In the past we have had aspiring farmers from all parts of the world with a full spectrum of experience: established and beginning farmers, food-justice activists, and students of agricultural business, ecology, and environmental studies, just to name a few. SF's apprenticeship program encourages this assortment of objectives and intentions for its apprentices with the intension that an eclectic group will come together and learn as much from each other as from the farm experience itself. Also, this diversity is especially valued as the educational component of the apprenticeship is tailored specifically to the needs and curiosity of every new apprentice-community.

This apprenticeship is geared toward individuals pursuing careers in agriculture. The demands of farming can be challenging and stressful, and there are long hours filled with physically demanding labor. Because of the practical hardships that come with the program, positive attitudes and behaviors become essential to fostering beneficial and healthy working relationships.

Application:

Present Date:

Name:

Birthday:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

When are you available/wanting to start?

Are you able to work full time?

Please answer all questions and requested information in full.

Questions:

1. Please describe what you hope to learn/obtain participating in a farm internship, and what are your goals related to agriculture?
2. Much of what you will learn happens while we are out in the field. How do you feel about hands on learning?
3. Describe your leadership style.
4. What kind of work conditions suit you best? Do you prefer direct guidance or to work on your own?
5. Please tell us something interesting about yourself (hobbies, pastimes, etc.).
6. Do you have any physical limitations that might affect your ability to work hard?
7. Do you have any animals that would **need** to come with you during the internship?
8. List your educational background.
9. Include 2 references and a resume with your application please.

Thank you for submitting your application to Skarsgard Farms. You will be sent a confirmation email once we have received all the required components of your application. Once your application has been processed the next step would be a phone interview or possible visit to the farm.