

Join Our Inaugural Class of Freshman Farmies!



ABOUT THE EARTHDANCE ORGANIC FARMING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM...

We are excited to offer this opportunity – to learn how to grow food organically on a real working farm – in our inaugural season of EarthDance. We are creating a cooperative learning and working environment conducive to individuals who want to gain practical organic farming skills on a part-time basis. While it is most ideal to immerse oneself in farm work completely (full-time) to thoroughly understand what it takes to farm organically, this apprenticeship is intended to serve as an introduction to the principles of sustainable agriculture without requiring a complete lifestyle change. We encourage apprentices to modify their work schedules to enable themselves to commit a minimum of 10 hours per week to farm and market labor, in addition to 2 hours per week of enrichment learning (plus 3 – 4 optional weekend field trips to nearby farms).

Our vision for the inaugural class of Freshman Farmies is a community of people who will learn from one another as much as they will learn from the land. To this end, we are seeking a group of apprentices diverse in age, ethnicity, and gender who will all bring high levels of passion, enthusiasm, dedication, and creativity to the program. We are also interested in bringing together individuals with a wide variety of skills, experience, and goals to further enrich our program.

In your application, we want to learn about YOU. We want to hear about how you have come to be interested in organic farming and gardening and sustainable food systems. We also want you to consider this program as much as we are considering you. The program spans from mid February 2009 to mid November 2009, and consists of practical farm-based training, weekly enrichment learning (from beekeeping to food preservation), and 3 – 4 field trips to nearby farms (optional). **This program was developed because the need for small-scale organic growers is increasing every day. All people who wish to promote sustainability through local food systems are great candidates for this program and more specifically:**

- *Current Students:* Students at area colleges and universities interested in organic farming, sustainability, environmental science, environmental / experiential education, agroecology, and other related careers.
- *Ferguson Residents:* Local community members interested in creating healthier lifestyles through increased activity and greater access to fresh foods
- *Educators:* Educators wanting to incorporate organic and sustainable food system topics into their programs.
- *Good Food Advocates & Hunger Fighters:* People seeking to contribute to local and national food security by developing a less centralized food system and increasing the amount of affordable healthy food.

Celebrating The Culture in Agriculture

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EarthDance

1814 Morven Ave • St. Louis, MO 63114 • 314.348.6999

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WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Farm Apprentices, the 2009 Class of Freshman Farmies • Program designed and led by Colleen Wilson & Molly Rockamann, Co-founders of EarthDance. • Guest instructors to include John Wilkerson, Dave Horton, Vicki Lander, and several others.
WHAT	<p>An opportunity to learn how to grow food organically on a real working farm – not far from home!</p> <p>Freshman Farmies commit a minimum of 10 hours per week to farm and market labor, in addition to 2 hours per week of enrichment learning (plus 3 – 4 optional weekend field trips to nearby farms).</p>
WHEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications due December 15, 2008 • Freshman Farmies Class of 2009 announced January 15, 2009 • Program begins mid February and continues through mid November • Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays are our regular group work days (all 3 days not required; must add up to 10 hours minimum) • Enrichment activities and field trips will be scheduled in January
WHERE	<p>The EarthDance Organic Farming Apprenticeship will take place on 2 acres of rented ground of the Mueller Farm, on South Dade Avenue in Ferguson, Missouri. The Mueller Farm has been in organic production since 1883, making it the oldest organic farm in Missouri. The farm was named a Ferguson Historical Landmark in 2003. Mrs. Caroline Mueller still owns and lives on the farm to this day.</p>
WHY	<p>This program was developed because the need for small-scale organic growers is increasing every day. There is also a great demand to learn the skills of organic farming. The EarthDance Organic Farming Apprenticeship is designed to meet both of these needs – grow more affordable, healthy food for the region and train more individuals in organic farming techniques.</p>
HOW MUCH	<p>The application fee is \$25, nonrefundable. Enrollment in the apprenticeship program is \$250 per person for the entire 9 month season. This fee covers the cost of seeds, tools, and necessary materials. Optional field trips are not included in this fee. And yes! You will get to take home a share of the harvest!</p>

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