

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Prairie Birthday Farm is accepting applications for its volunteer apprentice program for the 2011 growing season. The Farm is an opportunity for creative and meaningful learning experiences. Anyone who wishes to learn about growing food in a “hands-on, mind-on” environment is a candidate for this opportunity.

Prairie Birthday Farm (located in Clay County about 20 minutes north of downtown K. C.) is a 15-acre, biodiverse, sustainable farm and land stewardship effort, which strives to mimic nature using permaculture design principles. It includes heirloom and wild fruit and nut trees and bushes; tall grass prairie (as habitat for beneficial insects, amphibians, and birds), honeybees; permanent raised-bed heirloom vegetable gardens; culinary herb and edible flower gardens; as well as bramble/ vine gardens. Pastured chickens and ducks as well as two horses in rotation-paddock pastures provide for on-farm compost production. This rich diversity collectively produces food that is abundant, artisanal, culturally stimulating, nutritionally concentrated and profoundly healthful. Produce is sold to area residents and chefs at leading restaurants. The name, Prairie Birthday Farm was born of these words of wisdom: “Tell me of what *plant birthday* a man takes notice, and I shall tell you a good deal about his vocation, his hobbies, his hay fever, and the general level of his ecological education” (A. Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, Prairie Birthday Essay, 1949).

Volunteers, working elbow to elbow with Farmer Linda, are compensated with rich learning experiences which may include, but are not limited to: fruit, vegetable, herb and flower production; poultry husbandry; soil health restoration; honey bee hosting; native prairie reconstruction; research; and tours. Learning activities are customized to meet the volunteers' objectives. Previous apprentice references are available.

Apprentices commit a minimum of 4 hours per week to the Farm and will need to provide their own transportation. Farm work is physically and emotionally demanding and requires stamina, creativity, flexibility, and a sense of humor.

For questions about the program contact us via the web site www.prairiebirthdayfarm.com