

## Harlequin Produce 2019 Equipment and Maintenance Manager

Harlequin Produce is a certified organic diverse vegetable farm located in Arlee Montana, 25 miles north of Missoula, 2019 will be our 9<sup>th</sup> year in business. Brian and Kaly have been working with vegetables since 2007. Prior to becoming full-time farmers they studied Agroecology at Montana State University. Over the course of the last six years we have grown from a small one-acre farm to 40-acre farm operating with 15 acres in vegetables. Each season we hire a total of 6-10 full employees, we believe the success of our farm in part stems from having employees that feel valued and respected we strive to create a working environment that is both fun and productive.

### Farm Overview

We have been leasing the land we farm in Arlee since 2010. We have three high tunnels, and potentially building a 4<sup>th</sup> this spring, a heated prothouse, a warehouse and walk-in cooler for packing and storing produce. We also have an assortment of appropriately scaled vegetable specific equipment that reduces our labor and increases our production. This includes a plastic mulch layer, water wheel transplantor, flame weeder, cultivation equipment, tractor pulled seeder, an undercutter for harvesting roots, a 200lb capacity barrel washer, and 6 tractors of various sizes.

We grow a large assortment of classic vegetables with our main emphasis in the following crops; spring greens, turnips, carrots, beets, brassicas – broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage, potatoes, onions, peppers, tomatoes, winter squash, garlic, and melons. Our produce is marketed in three ways; through the Western Montana Growers Cooperative, the Clark Fork Farmers' Market, and direct to customers via our 200-member summer Customizable CSA and Winter Storage Stock-UP. Starting in August, we roast chili peppers at the market. Our farm offers a unique opportunity to learn how to be both a wholesale grower and a vibrant direct market producer.

We value efficiency and ecology with an emphasis on production. We strive to grow produce in a manner that incorporates ecological principles while increasing yields. We take each tillage or cultivation pass with consideration of soil health and longevity. We have worked hard to keep prices low and consistent thus increasing the access of local food.

### Position Available

**1 Full Time Equipment and Maintenance Manager**– 40-45 hrs/ week April - May thru mid - November (depending on the season).

### Responsibilities

We are looking for a full-time team member to help with operating tractors, equipment maintenance and harvest. In the spring this position will largely involve operating machinery as the season progress and heavy harvest is underway 30 hours per week will be spent harvesting.

## Who Should Apply

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years of tractor operation experience, which should include knowledge of basic maintenance, hitching implements, and a general understanding of field preparation. Applicants should be comfortable driving large and small tractors. Ideally the candidate would also have knowledge of the shop skills necessary to run a small farm. We are looking for applicants who have a strong desire to learn, work hard, communicate effectively, think ahead, enjoy working in a fast paced environment, and potentially have an interest in a farming career.

## Compensation

We will provide a starting salary of \$12-\$15 per hour depending on experience and housing needs, there will be an option for a mid-season raise depending on performance. Employees are responsible for their own meals although we will occasionally share farm dinners. There will be produce available for personal consumption, as well as seconds for preservation.

## Housing

The farm has housing for 5 employees, one studio and two units with 2-bedrooms. Plus a break-room with a full kitchen for those that wish to commute from Missoula.

## Schedule and Hours

On average we strive to have employees work 40-45 hours a week Monday-Friday; but this is farming - and we do expect people to work until the job completed.

## How to Apply

Applications are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> and will be conducting interviews for qualified applicants the first week of February.

Please submit a current and applicable resume and answer the following questions to:  
[harlequin.produce@gmail.com](mailto:harlequin.produce@gmail.com).

Please be specific when answering these questions. Remember that we often do not have the ability to meet in person; this is the best way for us to understand who you are, if we will be compatible, and what you would like from this experience.

1. Why do you want to work for Harlequin Produce? Please make answers specific to the position that you are applying for.
2. What skill sets are you hoping to acquire from this position?
3. How do you think Harlequin Produce will benefit from having you included in part of their team?