

Harlequin Produce 2019 General Farm Hand Information

Harlequin Produce is a certified organic diverse vegetable farm located in Arlee Montana, 25 miles north of Missoula, 2019 will be our 9th 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 4th 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 transplanter, 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.

Who Should Apply

Farming is extremely rewarding, allowing us to see the direct effects of the fruits of our labor. Farming is both an exercised in mental as well as physical strength, work can be long, tedious and monotonous.

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.

We often work side by side with our crew allowing time for questions and conversations about agriculture. Employees are also expected to be able to work efficiently by themselves without our constant guidance.

Positions Available

(3-4) Full Time Crew Members – 40-45 hrs/ week starting either in mid-April or early May thru November 1st or 8th (depending on the season)

(2) Part Time Crew Members – 16-24 hrs/ week starting in May – October, relatively flexible on hours and days of the week but a set schedule is preferred

Responsibilities

Employees will assist with all aspects of vegetable production: greenhouse work in the spring, field preparation, building low tunnels, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, post harvest preparation of vegetables, farmers market sales, CSA packing, and field tear down.

Compensation

We will provide a starting salary of \$275-\$400 per week depending on experience and housing needs, there will be an option for mid-season raises depending on performance. Crew 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. We will have a rotating Saturday Farmers' Market schedule, which will result in working 6 days one week followed by a 4-day week the next, some weeks will be traditional Monday through Friday.

How to Apply

Applications are due by January 31st 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.

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. There are a lot of organic agriculture internships available. 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?