Assistant Farm Manager at Resilient Acres

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Mission Statement

“Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) is a worldwide movement to link visitors (WWOOFers) with organic farmers, promote a cultural and educational exchange, and build a global community conscious of ecological farming and sustainability practices.”

On the Job

My job was to assist Margaret, the farm manager with whatever needed to be done on the farm. I logged all my internship hours in Google sheets to keep track of my work and see where I spent my time. I felt like my work was diverse and constantly changing with the season.

Connecting Work to Class

This farm internship was very conducive to learning. I had a separate office space from my bedroom, and I was constantly connecting my learning material to my internship. In ENR 3700: Spatial Technologies in Natural Resource Management, I learned how to produce cartographic maps using geographic information systems. Here is a map I made of Resilient Acres.

On the Job Work Breakdown

- Weed
- Mulch
- Harvest
- Wash, weigh, and record harvest
- Set up the farm stand
- Seed winter greens, cover crops, and native flowers
- Water and fertilize plants
- Built a propagation box
- Transplant seedlings
- Invasive removal in the forest
- Plant identification
- Raked up leaf humus pile
- Seed saving
- Processing seeds
- Meetings with hosts and coworkers
- Sanitized

Goals

- Learn about organic farming
- Grow and identify plants
- Help on the farm
- Experience a new culture and meet people
- Work hard and have fun

Jobs and Accomplishments

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Permaculture pollinators and pests

I learned so much about organic gardening and farming during this internship through hands on work and individual research. One of the most fascinating things to me is the huge amount of biodiversity within resilient permaculture ecosystem. The presence of beneficial bugs like spiders and praying mantis help keep pest at bay. All the native and perennial plants attract pollinators like bees and butterflies!

Future Applications

In the future I would like to do more work growing organic food using sustainable practices. My experience at Resilient Acres inspired me to try to grow as much of my own food as I can in the next year. One thing I’ve learned about farming is that you’re always planning for the next year. I’m excited to continue working and learning about growing food because it’s something I’m passionate about.

Reflection

Working at Resilient Acres has been an enjoyable and educational experience. I really liked spending time outdoors as a break from doing online schoolwork. Gardening and farm work feel like play to me and I know it’s something I will continue to do for the rest of my life. I’m so thankful for this opportunity to spend my semester growing, working, and learning at Resilient Acres.

One of my favorite parts of this internship was being able to eat fresh food like eggs, kale, green beans, yellow beans, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, basil, lettuce, celery, carrots, and thyme. Margaret, Brenna, and I used to make big salads everyday for our lunch break. They were the freshest and most delicious salads to eat with good company. I strive to grow as much of my own food as I can in the next year.

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https://wwoofus.org