



## **Organic Farmer Training Program Application for 2011**

The Organic Farmer Training Program is selective. For the 2011 class we will take 16 full time students. We are looking for candidates who are committed to nine-and-a-half months of intensive training and work in organic farming. Our program provides hands-on experience in managing and working on our 4-season farm, combined with lectures, readings and workshops and is designed to give participants a solid foundation in the principles, practices, management and hard skills needed to operate an organic farm.

Applicants must be ready to devote themselves to an intensive and focused learning experience. We aim to create a healthy and vibrant learning community where students will learn from one another as much as they will learn from the land they will be farming and from the program instructors. To this end, we look to recruit a diverse cohort of students who bring a wide variety of skills, experience, goals and passions and who can engage and contribute positively to our working and learning community. It is important that you understand that this is an intensive program. *The program is not appropriate for those seeking an initial exposure or inquiry into organic farming;* it is intended for participants who know they want to commit to work in local and organic food production or education and are ready for an intensive immersion learning experience, to learn from doing, to learn from professors, farmers, peers, and a whole host of other people interested in local, sustainable food systems.

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. It is a selective program and your written application is the most important aspect of the application. Your application will represent you and you should communicate what you want us to know about your experience and commitment to local, sustainable, and organic food systems. Previous work on a farm is highly encouraged and applicants who have worked on a farm will be favored. We also want you to consider this program as much as we are considering you. Please feel free to ask questions to help you decide if this is the right program for you. We highly recommend that you schedule a visit to the Student Organic Farm meet us and to see our farm in action!

*If you would like more information on the program or to arrange a visit, please contact [msufarm@msu.edu](mailto:msufarm@msu.edu) and include Organic Farmer Training Program in the subject line or call the farm @ 517-230-7987*

**2011 Program Dates: March 1<sup>st</sup> – November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Admissions are on a rolling basis; early application is encouraged as space is limited. We will have a waiting list for last minute openings.**

## **Checklist for your application:**

- ❖ Completed Application Form (SEE BELOW)
- ❖ Resume
- ❖ Answers to the six application questions (SEE BLEOW)
- ❖ Transcripts from college or high school
- ❖ Two to three letters of reference with contact information from previous employers or teachers / professors (NOT FRIENDS OR FAMILY)
- ❖ Check for application processing fee of \$50 made out to Michigan State University
- ❖ Any additional information that you think will be relevant to helping us understand how this program will fit into your future plans and what you can bring to the program

## **Please send your application to:**

Denae Friedheim  
MSU Student Organic Farm  
Organic Farmer Training Program  
A288 Plant and Soil Science Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824

## **2011 Organic Farmer Training Program Application Form**

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date of Birth:

Gender:

Race/Ethnicity (optional):

Highest Level of Education Completed:

**Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet. Please keep your answers limited to six (6), double spaced pages.**

1. Why do you want to participate in the Organic Farmer Training Program and spend nine months intensively learning, working and training at the Student Organic Farm?
2. Describe your commitment to local, organic, sustainable food systems? What are you currently doing in your life that demonstrates your commitment to local, sustainable food systems?
3. Describe your previous experiences with farming and gardening.
4. How will this program better prepare you for the work you will do in years to come?
5. Describe your experiences working and learning in community? What about you will make you a good member of our working and learning community in the OFTP?
6. Describe your experience with physical labor. How will you handle the sometimes strenuous physical nature of the program?

