

TANTRÉ FARM

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR INTERNSHIPS

Richard Andres & Deb Lentz
2510 Hayes Rd.
Chelsea, MI 48118
734-475-4323
tantrefarm@hotmail.com
www.tantrefarm.com



Description of Tantré Farm

We are the owners of Tantré Farm, Richard Andres and Deb Lentz. We, along with our daughter, Ariana, live on-site year round. Tantré Farm has been a certified organic farm since 1993. We are located about 20 miles west of Ann Arbor (pop. 111,300). The closest town is Grass Lake (very small town, pop. 903), about 8 miles to the west. Chelsea (pop. 3,772) is the next city near us about 10 miles to the northeast.

Our farm is situated on 40-acres of wetland, woods, and sandy-loam fields. We also own a 10-acre farm across the road, which is where our intern farmhouse is located and some of our animals. Our fruit crops include strawberries, raspberries, pears, and melons. We grow about 80 to 100 varieties of vegetables and a small variety of herbs and flowers.

In addition to that, we have an Australian cattle dog, an Australian shepherd dog, some cats, some Guernsey/Jersey/Holstein cows, a goat, and a few egg-laying chickens. We sell our produce through CSA shares, local stores, restaurants, buying clubs, Lunasa (an online farmers market), and also at the Ann Arbor and Chelsea Farmers' Markets.

Our Internship Overview

We are looking for self-motivated interns with a positive attitude and good work ethic, who would like to work on a bio-intensive, medium-size, organic farm. Responsibilities may include soil preparation, planting, cultivation, cover cropping strategies, harvesting, and marketing through our 375 member CSA and three Farmers' Markets. Apprentices must be able and willing to work long hours and be willing to live semi-communally with some cooking and cleaning responsibilities.

We offer room, board, and a negotiable stipend dependent on experience and performance. Preference will be given to interns who can live on-site and work at least 5 1/2 days per week (Monday through Saturday market). Basic season is from April through November, but we will consider anyone willing to work at least some of these months.

We also do offer some work and accommodations during the off season. This internship is experiential and will focus on hands-on application of sustainable agriculture practices.

Mealtimes

We eat all meals together in the main house during the work week. Richard usually makes oatmeal for breakfast or people find their own food, but we all eat together. We all sign up for a lunch and supper schedule to share in cooking and cleaning responsibilities for the season, so we all have the opportunity to cook what we grow.

Generally when the majority of the crew has arrived we will partner up with another person for cooking and cleaning, but some of us may choose to prepare a meal on our own for the 10 to 20 people, who eat with us. The cooks leave the field about an hour and a half to two hours early in order to prepare the meal. All cooks prepare the meal and wash and dry dishes right after we eat,

washing tables, counters, and stove area, sweeping dining room and kitchen floors, and drying and putting away dishes. The rest of us pitch in to clear the table and put food away. The cooks should try to clean up their cooking area as much as possible before they ring the meal bell.

All farm workers are REQUIRED to have breakfast and lunch together as a community in order to share life, answer questions about the day's events, and discuss the direction for the rest of the day. Supper is prepared for the group by one or two of the community, but people may have other evening plans, and may choose not to join us. All weekend meals are on your own.

Household

Room assignments are on a first-come, first-serve basis and also based on Richard and Deb's discretion. We have 5 private bedrooms, 2 shared bathrooms, and a shared living room in our "intern farmhouse". We also have 1 private room in a "pump house", another private space in a block building "barn", and communal living quarters for several in an unheated timber frame barn.

The common areas in the main farmhouse across the road from the intern/worker farmhouse are the kitchens, the living room, and the bathroom, which are shared with Deb, Richard, and Ariana. Generally we don't wear shoes in either house. Everyone should clean up after themselves in the shared living spaces of the interns' house and the main house and put their personal items away. We ask that you clean your own sleeping quarters. Please do not keep food in these areas, since that attracts rodents.

We have 2 washing machines, a dryer, clotheslines, and detergent available for personal use, as needed. Also, we do not allow smoking of any kind or burning of candles, incense, lanterns, etc. in any buildings on the farm and also in any areas where food/produce is being handled. Substance abuse of drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated.

Work Schedule

This internship is a work-learning experience, so you can work after hours every day and on the weekends, if you want. Minimally we ask that our interns make a commitment to work Monday through early afternoon on Saturday until after farmers markets. Sunday is a free day, but you can always help out on the farm even then.

Work times are variable depending on daylight hours, but generally work starts around 7 A.M. after breakfast, except during the heat of the season (6 A.M.). Our lunch begins anytime between 12 and 1 P.M. and is considered an hour break. The end of the day varies, but it usually ends around 5:30 P.M. (depends on when the day starts, or the weather, or if harvest is not done, etc.). On Saturdays if you are working on the farm, the day begins at 7 AM until noon.

Generally we have an 8 - 12 hour work day (not counting meals and breaks). You will be expected to help out past the work day, if a frost is coming or any animals get out, etc. It is generally understood that workers might need short (10 or 15 min.) water/snack breaks in the morning or afternoon. If it's really hot out, we might end the day early and go swimming at any of a number of local lakes. Sometimes people might take a bike ride or a hike around the area before supper. Supper is generally around 6 or 7 P.M.

Required Work Parties/Open Houses

We invite our CSA members to see the farm at three different times during the season called a Spring, Summer, and Fall Work Party (Open House). These are scheduled on three designated Sundays from 1 to 4 PM. Members may work and help out at a series of stations getting a different taste of the seasonal tasks at the farm or they may just choose to watch their children play in the backyard, interact with the animals, or just walk about the farm and explore.

We REQUIRE that all full-time farm workers/interns help out at least one of these work parties on a Sunday, which is typically your day off. You will be expected to help run a station and set up tables and chairs or cook a dish to share or help clean up afterwards. Of course, you are invited to attend all of these Work Parties in order to build relationships within our CSA community, share your knowledge, and be stewards of Tantre Farm, but you only need to commit to one day.

Compensation (Room, Board, & Stipend)

The pay rate is based on experience, performance, and how things go for us for the season. Our stipend usually starts at \$500 for the first month (training, orientation, getting to know routines, etc.). This is a trial month, and if all is working well for you and for us by the end of the month, then we expect you to stay until the end of your committed time period. If you need to end your stay with us for some reason, we would appreciate a 1-2 weeks notice ahead of time. Stipends may go as high as \$600 - \$800 or more for the full commitment time. It depends on a lot of factors mentioned above, but especially upon performance (initiative, strong work ethic, consistent work focus, troubleshooting problems, responsible behavior, etc.). Payday is the last day of every month. Sometimes we are also able to offer a \$100 or \$200 bonus at the end of the season, if it's been a productive season.

Free room and board include living quarters, utilities, toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent, first aid supplies, wireless internet, and most food. We consider this to be worth about a \$400 to \$600 savings for you per month. We generally supply all food, especially all produce and herbs. If you want something really exotic, you may need to buy it yourself. We ask that interns/farm crew supply their own personal hygiene products and use your own calling card or cell phone for outgoing long distance calls. Incoming calls are no problem.

Supplies/Equipment/Clothing Needed

flashlight/headlamp
alarm clock
rain coat and pants
warm clothing (polarfleece, wool, polypropylene etc.) for Fall & Spring Work
long underwear for Fall & Spring Work
work boots, hiking boots, or rubber boots
calling card or cell phone for long distance phone calls
water bottle
pocket knife
sheets, pillows, & blanket or sleeping bag (let us know if you need this, since we have extras)
towel/washcloth (we have extras)

Optional Items (Extras are on the Farm)

work gloves
sun hat
sunscreen
favorite cookbooks or recipes
musical instrument