



Keen to learn about regenerative agriculture?

Ignatius Farm Internship Package 2022

New Farmer Training Program

- Pre-season Foundational workshops
- Post-season Management workshops
- Weekly webinars and virtual field days
- Monthly field day networking with SW Ontario farming peers
- Personal learning objectives met through weekly curriculum, an independent project and mentored field work

Farming

- Vegetable and berry production - from seed to harvest, processing & sales
- Greenhouse and field production
- Hand and tractor work; teamwork!
- Community Shared Agriculture, U-pick, Farmers Market & bulk sales
- Community Gardens & events



Ignatius Jesuit Centre
A Place of Peace

ignatiusfarm.ca ignatiusguelph.ca
5420 Hwy 6 N, Guelph ON N1H 6J2

Ignatius Farm Internships 2022

Full-Season Contract:

April 19 – November 18

Summer Contract:

April 19– August 31

Fall Contract:

August 30 – November 18

Deadline 2022:

February 28

(July 18 for Fall contract)

Submit resume and application details (p.5) to:

officecoordinator@ignatiusguelph.ca

We are looking for passionate & imaginative individuals to join us in the care of our organic farm.

As part of the Ignatius farm team you will be part of our vision for regenerative community agriculture, eco-spirituality, and farm ecosystem education.

Cover—Farmer Christine in the greenhouse

All Photos—Ignatius Farm

The Ignatius Farm Internship training combines weekly education curriculum with hands-on field work to develop your skills and knowledge as a farm worker, and the basis of your work in ecological agriculture or food system advocacy.

Community, Cooperation, Ecology, and Education summarize Ignatius Farm's approach to local sustainable food:

- Certified organic vegetables and berries - 10+ acres
- Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) - 250 households
- Produce for local businesses, service agencies, and markets
- Community Gardens - 3 acres
- Cropland rentals for organic farmers & researchers - 180 acres
- Farm Internships - over 125 alumni trained
- Seasonal community events
- Carbon-sequestering cover crops and soil-building crop rotations
- Local & regional collaborations & partnerships

Ignatius Farm Internships in the Principles and Practices of Organic Agriculture have been going strong since 2002. That same year we founded the [Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training in Ontario](#) (CRAFT ON SW). Field days with our farmer networks and partnerships continue to be a highlight for interns as a forum for networking and seeing a variety of farms. Ignatius Farm supports endeavours to improve the quality of farm work conditions in Ontario.

Our two resource manuals from the early days of internships are available on our [website](#):

Oh, to Grow! – a primer for novice interns introducing key organic agriculture concepts

Nurturing New Farmers - a guide for farmers considering hosting interns

In 2020, we started the [Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program](#) in collaboration with the [EFAO](#) and [Everdale](#). This core curriculum of our internship is also open for general registration to anyone who wants to learn more about farming. The program is term based and progresses from basic introductory topics such as botany and soil health all the way to workshops helping you to start your own farm business such as marketing and record keeping. Registration and current information on the Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program is on the [EFAO website](#).

Education program

- Two-week pre-season intensive and three-week post-season intensive: workshops priming you for and debriefing the growing season (e.g. Soils, botany, tractor work, crop planning, cover crops, finances...)
- Weekly webinars or virtual field days including one monthly in person field trip
- Personal learning objectives met through weekly program, independent project, mentored field work and library of over 250 books
- **The New Farmer Training Program curriculum is also available on a fee basis, by webinar and by term, to individuals who are not hired by the Farm, delivered in collaboration with [EFAO](#) and [Everdale](#) and the [NFU-O](#). Registration will be on the [EFAO website](#).**



*Garlic
season!*



Farming

- Grow, harvest and process vegetables, seedlings & berries in field and greenhouses
- Provide excellent quality organic produce for CSA, markets, Loyola House, local businesses & service agencies
- Use tools safely and support maintenance of tools, equipment, & structures
- Contribute to farm system improvements, community events, media, community gardens
- Work with long-time farm staff and a team committed to creating educational opportunities

Hours per week: average 40 hours per week Farm work plus 5-10 hours per week Education curriculum

Curriculum fees are waived for interns. A stipend and a generous share of vegetables are provided. Optional housing available.

Ignatius Farm

Internship Timelines

Ignatius Farm Internships are full-time: up to 50 hours per week combining curriculum & farm work as follows:

April Intensive, 2 weeks

Foundational workshops/orientation up to 20 hours/week; Farm work up to 30 hours/week

May-October, 27 weeks

Monday/Wednesday afternoons. Educational Curriculum 5-10 hours/week; Farm work average 40 hours/week

November Intensive, 3 weeks

Farm management workshops/debrief up to 20 hours/week; Farm work up to 30 hours/week

"I am grateful for the support, the growth I continue to experience, the friendship forged, and the exciting turn my life's journey has taken thanks to the support, kindness, and encouragement of the Ignatius Farm team."

Nicola Inglefield, Former Intern

Educational Program Details

April Intensive, April 19-29

Workshops on Soil structure & ecology, Botany & plant families, the language of ecological agriculture in Ontario, indoor growing, and pest and disease management.

Orientations to Farm Safety, Standard Operating Procedures, Tractor work, Seedling and greenhouse production, Hand tools, Communications, Team Building, Volunteers, Educational program, the Ignatius Jesuit Centre and the community.

Learning objectives meeting with Farm Educator to identify resources, independent project options, and readings.

'Oh, to Grow - Educational Primer for New Farmers', intern resource manual, and library access provided.

May-October, Applications & Skill-Building Curriculum, May 2-October 26

Monday/Wednesday afternoons intern Education Days include:

In person Field Trip, 1/month, full day - visiting other farms & community organizations, networking with other farmers and interns from SW Ontario. Selected with Intern learning objectives in mind.

Webinar Days, Online workshops cover the principles behind farm activities (pests, weeds, irrigation, equipment, indoor production, harvest and storage, crop planning, cover crops, composts, and more on soils), additional enterprises (apiculture, herbs, fruit, various livestock), eco-spirituality, etc.

Independent projects can include a personal garden plot, creating materials/workshops or technical improvement for the farm; spending time with another Ignatius Jesuit Centre program (e.g. farm tenant, Loyola House spiritual directors, Old-Growth Forest...) or local community/farming organization (e.g. Community Gardens Network, EFAO etc.); or design a future farm/enterprise. There will be 7 afternoons spread out over the internship to work on projects. Learnings will be shared.

November Intensive, November 1-18

Webinars include farm business planning, budgeting, management systems, marketing, human resources, and business-building skills.

Presentation of independent projects.

Debriefing the season – putting the growing season's weather into the climate context; assessing crops & cultivar selections, team wrap-up.



Harvesting daikon.

“Growing good food, with good people was one of the best learning experiences of my life.”

- Kiersten Vizzacchero, Former Intern

“The farmers at Ignatius Farm CSA invest a tremendous amount of energy into their internship program and place a strong emphasis on education.”

- Sarah Ouellette, Former Intern



Singing on the sprinklers



Farm Work Details

Farm work is demanding! You will sweat and have sore muscles, but will also find the work to be meaningful and rewarding. Full-time staff, seasonal farm associates, and eventually you too will provide field leadership. We prioritize clear communications through team meetings, use of radios, daily job boards, and building up team knowledge. We expect everyone to contribute their best.

Farming Activities include indoor and field production of diverse vegetables and berries, from seed to harvest, processing & sales. I.e. seedling production, greenhouse management, bed preparation, use of hand tools and machinery, transplanting, harvesting, driving tractors with trailers, post-harvest handling, packing, and sales through U-pick berries, Community Shared Agriculture, markets & businesses. There is also work with the Community Garden Plots and seasonal Community events.

Example of weekly farm shifts (changes with season and staffing needs).

Weekly farm work hours: Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm or 6am-3pm; 15-minute morning break; 1-hour lunch break at 12:30pm.

Education Program: Monday & Wednesday afternoons 2:30-4:30pm – Most days are online webinars or virtual field days. There will be one in-person field trip day per month.

The following shifts create the average 40 hrs/wk work, scheduled in advance, with some rotation:

Farm chores: every 3-4 weeks, ¾ -1-hour Mon-Fri evenings, plus 3-6 hours over the course of the weekend

CSA pick-up staff: Tuesday 9am-8pm & Friday 9am-7pm starting mid-June

Monthly Community Field Days & Seasonal Events, typically Saturdays, as scheduled

Other Details

All curriculum fees are waived for full-time interns. A monthly stipend of \$1000 is provided. A generous share of

the Farm's organic vegetables is provided to all farm team members, as harvested.

Housing is available onsite. Details are provided at the interview.

What We are Looking For

A background, knowledge or interest in gardening, greenhouse production, soils, ecology, local food systems, farm ecosystems, and use of basic tools.

A commitment to ecological farming practices, Health & Safety mindfulness, working outside in all weather, operating as a cohesive team, open communications, and building community.

Assets: Valid G class drivers licence, First Aid/CPR

Ignatius Farm Interns must have their own computer for webinars and be legally permitted to work in Canada.

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre (IJC) aspires to be an equitable and inclusive place where a diversity of life experiences, identities and perspectives work together. IJC encourages applicants from all walks of life, especially those from communities that have been historically excluded from farming or access to farmland. We apply an anti-oppression framework to our work and have a zero tolerance policy for discrimination and harassment.

How to Apply



Submit your resume and cover letter by Feb 28 to officecoordinator@ignatiusguelph.ca. It must include:

1. Confirm you have read this **2022 Ignatius Farm Internship information package** in full.
2. Email and phone number for daytime contact
3. Which internship you are applying for – *Full-Season, Summer or Fall*
4. Any commitments during the contract with dates
5. Intention to live in the accommodations on-site
6. Farming and gardening experience
7. Why you seek an internship with Ignatius Farm
8. What you would like to learn during the internship
9. What skills and qualities you offer the farm
10. Preference for solo or team-based work

Now for our story...

Ignatius Farm is an integral part of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre (IJC) located in Guelph-Eramosa Township, Ontario. IJC's mission is to foster an ecological way of life through agriculture, spirituality, and ecological restoration. This is carried out through Ignatius Farm, Loyola House, the Ignatius Old-Growth Forest (our 500-year project), and Orchard Park Office Centre. www.ignatiusguelph.ca

Ignatius Farm is a community organic training farm that thrives through cooperation and collaboration. We grow certified organic vegetables and berries for Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) members, markets, local businesses and service agencies. Programs include community gardens & orchard, acreage rentals, training & internships, working shares & volunteer opportunities, and seasonal community events.

The Ignatius Farm Team loves growing food, working in synergy with the soil ecosystem, and collaborating with the community! Farm Manager Heather Lekx, Assistant Farm Manager Donald Bowyer, Farm Educator Lisa Conroy, and Farm Outreach Administrator Pamela Costanzo work with Interns, seasonal staff, Working Shares and volunteers to grow great food and take care of the farm.

Heather oversees the entire Farm operation. Before starting the Ignatius Farm CSA in 2001, Heather worked with farms and research projects in Ontario, New York, California, Florida, Belize, and Honduras.

Donald oversees crop production, crop rotations, sales and equipment. Don has a background in IT and warehouse logistics, and joined the Ignatius Farm team in 2008.

Lisa runs the Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program in collaboration with EFAO and Everdale. She coordinates the internship and community programs. Lisa ran her own CSA for six years and joined Ignatius Farm in 2019.

Pamela coordinates registration, marketing, program readiness, and events for the farm. Shortly before joining the Farm team, Pam wore the IJC Office Coordinator hat!



An aerial map of the South West Portion of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. The CSA Fields can be seen on the middle of the left portion of the photo.

[Photo credit, Google Maps]