

# Free Verse Farm

## 2021 Field Assistant Job Description

We are seeking field assistants for the 2021 growing season on our herb farm in Chelsea, Vermont. Since 2012, we have grown medicinal, culinary, and tea herbs at our small farm. Using the herbs that we grow as our primary ingredients, we offer a line of herbal remedies, tea blends, herbal body care products, and culinary blends. Our products are available in boutiques, groceries, farmstands, gift shops, restaurants, and cafés, primarily in New England. We also sell our product through Free Verse Farm Shop (opened September 2020 in downtown Chelsea) and via our online apothecary shop where we ship our products around the USA. We are a family business.

Field assistant positions at Free Verse Farm provide the opportunity to experience first-hand what it takes to work on a small herb farm. The work will be mostly in the field, focused on the cultivation of herbs, with employees spending the majority of their time planting, weeding, and harvesting crops, as well as drying and processing herbs in our barn. Field assistants may also assist with other farm activities, such as tending the herd of beef cattle that spend the summer on our pastures, helping with farm tours, etc.

*\*\*\*COVID-19 Pandemic: From the moment of its arrival, we have taken the pandemic very seriously, and like so many, it has meant profound changes for our everyday lives and the operation of our businesses. In 2020, we worked hard to keep open lines of communication between ourselves and our farm crew, seeking to ensure that we can not only have a productive farm, but one where everyone feels safe and comfortable to work. We are happy to answer any questions you might have about our practices.\*\*\**

### **The ideal field assistant:**

- Is a hard worker, someone who enjoys manual labor
- Is flexible, patient, and detail-oriented
- Is comfortable working alone
- Has a positive attitude and a team mentality
- Has a dedicated interest in farming and herbs
- Has previous farming experience (not required, but strongly recommended)

### **Details:**

- Wage is dependent upon experience.
- The season generally runs from April through October, and occasionally a few days into November if the weather permits. Field assistants are expected to commit for the full season.
- Workdays generally begin between 7-8 am, lasting 8-9 hours. During the height of summer, we often begin our days earlier to avoid the hottest hours of the day.
- The position is for 3-4 days per week on the farm, with the possibility of being full-time by taking shifts at the Farm Shop and/or Apothecary.
- There is the possibility of extra farm work during the growing season and farm-sitting for us during the occasional short trip we might take during the summer months.
- There may also be the opportunity to pick up extra work off farm at the Farm Shop or in our Apothecary, which is located adjacent to the Farm Shop.
- Applicants must have reliable transportation, be able to lift 50 pounds, and be willing to work outside in all weather conditions.
- Benefits of this position include access to fresh herbs and vegetables from our farm (when available), 15% off at Free Verse Farm Shop, first-hand instruction on growing, tending, and processing herbs, and the

opportunity to expand your farming knowledge and experience while spending the summer on a beautiful hillside in Vermont.