

Willistown Conservation Trust Community Farm Program 2010 Internship Program at Rushton Farm

Who We Are

The mission of the Willistown Conservation Trust Community Farm Program is to support the Trust mission by modeling sustainable agricultural practices and promoting the values of open space, natural resource protection and healthy local food production to a broader community. By bringing together community members, farmers, and land in a mutually supportive relationship, the farm program contributes to the growth of local, sustainable food networks and connects people of all ages and backgrounds more closely with the rural landscape and agricultural heritage of the Willistown countryside.

The Internship

The Community Farm Program at Rushton Farm provides interns with hands on experience growing food and providing educational outreach to the community through the farm's CSA, volunteer, and service learning programs. Interns work closely with the Rushton Farm staff to grow 3 acres of mixed vegetables, operate a CSA, manage a Sunday Farm Market, ensure the safety and proper management of volunteers, and educate all visitors to the farm about the mission of the WCT Community Farm Program.

What We Seek

We are seeking a dependable, good natured individual, ideally with an interest in pursuing a career in sustainable agriculture or food systems related advocacy work. No farm related experience is necessary but applicant must be able and willing to perform physical labor in various weather conditions and be comfortable speaking with the public. Additionally, applicant must be open to working on alternate Sundays and help with the management of our Sunday Market. Compensation consists of a small weekly stipend and produce. Applicant will be responsible for their own housing.

Primary Responsibilities

Tasks include but are not limited to:

- **Propagation and greenhouse management-** seed starting, seedling care, record keeping and watering duties on alternate weekends in the spring and early summer.
- **Bed Preparation and Planting-** both manual and mechanical tillage and bed preparation activities.
- **Field Irrigation-** Intern will be expected to learn, implement, and operate both overhead and drip irrigation systems.
- **Harvesting and CSA setup-** Intern will be directly involved in the harvesting and distribution of CSA shares every Tuesday and Friday morning throughout the season, schedule permitting.

- **Sunday Market-** Intern will be involved in the harvesting and operation of the Sunday Market. This will include working with customers throughout the day and educating the general public about the work of WCT.
- **Other possible opportunities include-** Working with school and youth groups through our developing education programs; working with volunteers throughout the summer; and developing composting systems for field-scale production systems.

Commitment/Stipend

30 to 40 hrs a week, ideally from late April to mid-October. Stipend is \$100/week. No housing available at this time. The primary value in this position is educational; the opportunity for a young, engaged individual to learn at a ground floor level what it takes to make a small to mid-level CSA farm work. Work schedule is generally flexible with few exceptions.

Application Information

Applications are taken on a rolling basis until the position has been filled by the desired candidate. Take a closer look at Willistown Conservation Trust Community Farm Program at wctrust.org. Interested applicants should e-mail their resume and cover letter to rushtonfarm@wctrust.org. Although email is preferred you can also mail your application to:

Rushton Farm Staff
Willistown Conservation Trust
925 Providence Rd
Newtown Square, PA 19073