THE FARM
StoneWall Farm is a non-profit organization, established in 1994 to offer agricultural education. We operate an organic dairy herd, a three acre garden, three greenhouses, a CSA, a micropasteurizing plant, farmstore, sugar house, hydroponic barley fodder system, and an educational Learning Center. We welcome over 20,000 visitors per year, including primary schools, college students and the public. We offer a farm camp for children and major agriculturally themed events throughout the year.

The farm is located on 120 acres of pasture and forest in Keene, NH, the largest city in the southwestern region of the state.

THE SCHOOL
StoneWall Farm School (SFS) offers a year-long program for those interested in small scale organic dairy and vegetable farming. Using decades of experience, the SFS incorporates farming skills, appropriate technology, business management, marketing, and education to provide a comprehensive background in all aspects of successful small scale farming.

OPTIONS
Students will learn business, marketing and education aspects of small scale agriculture. Options for a focus are dairy or garden, and both include all farm operations.

I. Dairy
Work with the dairy staff, from breeding to milking to pasture management and National Organic Practices, feed and hay production, homeopathic medicine, and farm equipment use. We operate a micropasteurizing plant, and students will learn how to produce value added dairy products. Our 30 Holstein and Brown Swiss ladies are milked at 4:30 am and pm daily.

II. Garden
Participate in collaborative, open book farming: see, learn, and do it all, start to finish, to run a year-round, small-scale CSA and market farm. Learn with the Garden Manager how to plan, plant, harvest, store, bottle, or freeze year-round produce. Students will operate three different greenhouses, a CSA, and go to farmers’ markets in the region. Appropriate technology is integral to our garden operations.

StoneWall Farm School
A year with us and you’ll be outstanding in the field
STONEWALL FARM SCHOOL

CORE LEARNING AREAS

Dairy
- National Organic Practices
- Breeding
- Milking
- Sanitation
- Pasture management
- Haying
- Small grain production
- Hydroponic fodder
- Manure management
- Pasteurization & bottling
- Permitting

Garden
- Planning
- Planting
- Weeding
- Pest control
- Soil amendments
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Harvesting
- Soil management
- Greenhouse production
- Storage
- Farmers’ markets

Farm Operations
- Safety
- Farm equipment & maintenance
- Hand tools
- Small animals
- Maple sugaring
- Workhorses
- Farm store

Business & Marketing
- Banking
- Accounting
- Advertising
- Branding & labeling
- Education & Volunteers
- Grants & Loans
- Insurance
- Federal programs
- Collaborations & the community
- Special events
- Vendors

THE REAL DEAL
Farming is by nature long days, hard work, and very satisfying. Expect to milk cows at 4:30 am and pm, pull endless weeds in the garden, lift 50 pound bags of compost, move hundreds of bales of hay, wonder how many rocks can be in a field, and get very dirty. Yet little can compare with the direct results of your hard work—delicious, healthy, sustainably produced food. The ebb and flow of work varies by the season. The table below left shows these changes over a year. Winter is a slower time, so students focus on business and marketing by developing a model farm plan. By the end of their year at SFS, students will have the practical experience and business knowledge to start their own operation. SFS will remain a mentor to students as they enter the farming world.

TUITION
SFS is a full year program, beginning in the fall of each year. Tuition is $5,500, including housing (private room, shared bath, kitchen, washer/dryer), $20/week food allowance at the farm store, and 15% off products beyond that.

Pay Back
After 6-7 months of work, students become eligible for paid work at the farm. It is possible to earn up to as much as tuition payments. Actual amounts depend on timing of the school year and students’ abilities.

OUR QUALIFICATIONS

Farm Manager 30 years dairy farm experience, maple sugaring and teamster

Herdsperson 32 years dairy farming

Garden Manager 5 years management experience at farms up to $1.2 million in sales and 5 years teaching

Director 30 years non-profit business management, environmental education and graphic design

Education Director 13 years teaching in classrooms and with the public.

AWARDS (in 2013 alone):
- Organic Valley Gold Medal Award for milk quality (to 46 farms out of 1500)
- NH Commissioners Award for Excellence in Agricultural Promotion
- 20+ ribbons at the Cheshire County Fair (cows, hay, maple sugar)

For More Information
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STONEWALL FARM
Here Grow Roots Cultivate Community
242 Chesterfield Road, Keene, NH, 03431
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SEASONALITY JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
DAIRY
GARDEN
OPERATIONS