



# STONEWALL FARM SCHOOL

*A year with us and you'll be outstanding in the field*

## 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 green-houses, 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 prod-

ucts. 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, and store, bottle, or freeze year-round produce. Students will operate three different green-houses, a CSA, and go to farmers' markets in the region. Appropriate technology is integral to our garden operations.



# 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)

SEASONALITY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
DAIRY												
GARDEN												
OPERATIONS												

### For More Information

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