



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 2010

Overview:

Tucked into a quiet corner of Bedford Hills off a dirt road, Rainbeau Ridge is the embodiment of a dream. Created in 2002 by Lisa Schwartz and her husband, Mark, with a fascination, appreciation and respect for the natural resources available in their own backyard, the Schwartz's are focused on recapturing the gentleman's farm that once encompassed this space and on sharing this open space, and its products, with others.

Rainbeau Ridge, a model of sustainable suburban agriculture, includes a small-scale egg operation, organic vegetable gardens, a restored orchard, small pastures and barns designed for the farm's many animals, and a cheese house, where Lisa cultivates her fine farmstead goat cheese.

Now an important center of neighbor and community life, the farm also offers a variety of educational programs for children and adults.

Volunteer positions are available in the areas of livestock, cheesemaking, produce and ag education (for children);

Opportunity: To be part of a dynamic, growing, non-traditional farm business. Unique chance to be hands on in all aspects of market gardening, livestock care, and ag education

Responsibilities:

Early Spring is a busy time at Rainbeau Ridge with kidding season unfolding and preparation for the season's garden gets underway. We work long days which are often unpredictable (you never know when a doe will kid and we try to be there at all births); With weekly children's classes (for ages 2-8) and a rich program adults, there's always something cookin' at the farm and you can be involved. With summer's arrival, the produce operation is in full swing, cheese is being produced daily and on farm visitors stream in during the farm's OPEN FARM DAYS. By fall, we work hard to coax out the last of the garden, drying and preserving the harvest for winter consumption.

Qualifications & Timing: Spend as little or as much time on the farm as you'd like; We just ask that the commitment be a scheduled one so we can help you as you learn and grow with us.

Benefits: Share the magic at the farm and enjoy being with like-minded peers. The possibilities are endless.

Applications: We want to match your skills and interests to our needs so we request that you submit a brief email stating your interests, availability and contact information. We'll follow up with a phone call and on farm meeting.



RAINBEAU RIDGE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities exist in all areas:

Goat care—help us by attending to the grooming and grazing needs of our wonderful does; There's 'kid watch' at all hours from April through May

Kid care—With more than 50 babies on the farm by April, there are lots of mouths to feed; we bottle feed our 2-4 times daily

Cheese apprentice—ever wonder what goes into the fabrication of cheese? Spend mornings in the cheese house and learn.

Gardening—learn by doing; assist with seeding, transplanting, renovating beds, and harvesting; prepare produce for market; learn how to deal with garden pests the natural way

Teaching—Enjoy spending time with children? Our Sprouts programs teach kids about the joys of farming and food. Be a part of this nurturing program

On farm photographer—have you checked out our website? If you have, you'll notice we record everything in pictures, and we could use your help especially at morning classes

Librarian—catalog our books and magazines; comb same for important articles to support farm staff needs; Help keep our clippings organized

Communications—outreach is really important to what we do—not just informing people of RR events but helping to educate people in all areas of sustainable living; Help spread the word

Market days—Welcome and help customers as they come for weekly purchases of produce, eggs and cheese and be a part of this energizing community

Office Volunteer—Help us man phones and respond to inquiries, build our FAQ's file, expand our databases, coordinate volunteer info schedules and more

Special Events—Our spring Sheep Shearing and Fall Fest take a lot of coordination; we can use your organizational skills in preparing for the day's activities or helping the day of the event

Greeters—Saturdays in May through September we welcome visitors to the farm from 11am-3pm to take self-guided tours and enjoy the farm environment. We need volunteers to greet them and answer their questions

Farmers Markets—like sales? Like meeting customers? Then maybe you'd like to spend some time at farmers markets with our cheese

Foodies—Help us identify, develop and test recipes that are based on what we grow and produce