



Sustainable Farming Certificate Program

There are some exciting changes to the SFC program for 2018!

The full program is offered in three parts. You can apply for one, two, or all three parts.

1. **Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture**
A four-week on-farm curriculum with field demonstrations and learning activities
2. **Field Training**
A four-week practicum period
3. **Apprenticeship**
A twenty four-week paid apprenticeship as a farm assistant at Everdale farm

The financial information in the chart below is calculated by putting a fair value on your work time and the work time of our staff. You pay us for training time. We pay you for farm work.

	Duration	Training days per week	Farm work days per week	Certificate upon completion	Financial
Intro to Sustainable Agriculture	4 Weeks April 2, 2018 to April 27, 2018	Four and a half days of curriculum	One half day of farm work	SFC Introduction	Pay \$2,770 for training, lodging and meals.
Field Training	4 Weeks May 1, 2018 to May 26, 2018	One and a half days of curriculum	Three and a half days of farm work	SFC Field Training	Break even (\$0). Barter your farm work in exchange for training days, lodging and meals.
Apprenticeship	24 Weeks May 29, 2018 to Nov. 10, 2018	Monthly full day field trips	Five days per week with the exception of monthly field trips	SFC Apprentice	Earn \$11 135 gross income. If you choose to live on farm then you pay ~\$650 per month for lodging and meals.

See the SFC Schedule for a full calendar of training days and work days

Section Descriptions

Section One

- Arrive at the farm in early April.
- Weekly schedule runs Monday to Friday.
- The majority of time will be spent in the classroom and taking part in field demonstrations. There will be readings, assignments and testing during that time.
- One half day per week will be devoted to farm work.



- The tuition fee covers all trainings, a room at the farm, and food during your stay.
- During the application process, applicants indicating a desire to stay for the full 32-weeks will have the option of paying only ½ of the tuition fees, the remaining ½ will be deducted during the third section.

Section Two

- Weekly schedule shifts to Tuesday to Saturday.
- Curriculum days continue for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. The rest of the time is paid farm work.
- An apprentice's wages during this time will directly offset their rent, food and training costs, resulting in a net zero equation.
- Everdale is part of the Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) in southwest Ontario. Monthly full day field trips start in May and continue through October.

Section Three

- Apprentices who indicate an interest in staying at the farm for the full 32-week season will have a chance to evaluate their dedication to farming over the first eight weeks. Everdale and the apprentice will come to a mutual decision to determine if this section is a good fit for both parties.
- Although this section is predominately work Everdale maintains a strong commitment to education. Apprentices will learn by doing and have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and have the technical aspects of farming explained to them.
- If an apprentice indicates a desire to participate in this section when they apply then they will have the option of paying ½ of the section one tuition with the other half being deducted from wages earned during the third section.

Accommodations:

- a furnished, private bedroom in either the dorm or the straw bale cabins;
- shared use of communal bathrooms, solar showers, kitchens, phone, common rooms, and laundry;
- Long distance phone (free long distance anywhere in Canada) and high speed internet (including wireless in certain spots);
- Shared use of farm facilities during weekends and evenings (e.g. outdoor wood-fired bread oven, fire pits, forest trails)

Food: Our calculations when pricing the program take into account all of an apprentice's food with the exception of pre-packaged junk food which you are expected to purchase. Preparing and sharing amazing meals is an important part of the SFC program. Many past apprentices have told us that they have eaten better here than at any other time in their lives.

- We have ingredients appropriate for all diets. Stocked items are almost exclusively organically grown and locally grown whenever possible.
- The majority of the ingredients and shared meals will be vegetarian or vegan. We eat what we grow, and supplement with local, organic, seasonal items from other farms we know. We do



have meat ingredients available but if you want meat in your diet more than a few meals per week you may have to purchase some on your own. The same policy applies to out of season and non-local produce. A kitchen manager will be assigned from the staff group at the start of the season and all purchases will be at the discretion of that person.

- Lunches on working days are prepared by SFC apprentices and farm staff on a rotating basis using ingredients from the well-stocked pantries and fridges in the main kitchens.
- Breakfast, dinner and meals on off-days are each person's own responsibility to make (although we do encourage people to continue sharing meals).

Practical Farm Experience – Sections Two and Three

Practical farm experience is a very important part of the SFC curriculum. It's the best way for apprentices to really learn. The hands-on learning that happens on our farm is the perfect complement to the theory and other learning that the apprentices get during the structured learning section. There is nothing better than real world experience farming alongside experts in the field. It is essential that apprentices are motivated to learn and contribute on the practical farm days.

Apprentices are trained and mentored by our team of experienced farmers. Days are normally 10 hours long with an hour for lunch. Farm work takes place in all weather. The primary focus of our farm is the production of certified organic vegetables. At the end of the program, apprentices will be proficient in a wide range of farm related tasks and have a good understanding of the theoretical principles behind each one.

Like all farms, there are also certain tasks that need to be done outside of normal hours. They are small chores that don't take a lot of time but are essential to the running of the farm. These will be assigned on a rotating basis and you will be aware of the schedule in advance so you can plan your evening/weekend activities accordingly.

The SFC Certificate

There are three distinct SFC certificates available. One to reflect each section of the SFC program an apprentice completes.

In order to receive Everdale's *Sustainable Farming Certificate*, apprentices must meet a minimum set of predetermined criteria. These criteria will be laid out for the apprentice group at the start of the first block and will be based on a clear standard of participation and completion of curriculum components and assigned work.

Apprentices are expected to complete readings, worksheets, assignments, and some project work during evenings and weekends.

Demands of the Program

The SFC program requires a great deal of physical and mental energy. It is not realistic to have other employment or study requirements during the program. The apprentices who have gained the most from this program have come prepared – physically, emotionally, and financially – to make the SFC



program their singular focus while they are here. Learning how to farm is the core of the program but by being fully committed you will gain a deeper understanding of rural life and the communities associated with it. It is also important to understand and appreciate that there are very few true "days off" for people who pursue farming as a lifetime career. There is always something to do on a farm.

Vacation/Personal Time/Sick Days

Vacation: Full season SFC's get one week off for vacation.

Sick Days: Everyone gets sick sometimes. Sick people don't work. If regular illness is an issue for you then we would need to revisit whether or not the SFC program is the right fit for you.

Is This Program For You??

We are looking for people who are excited by Everdale's mission and the work that we do. Everdale's farms are consistently busy with farmers, consumers, students, school children, volunteers, workshop and event participants and all sorts of other interesting individuals. Prospective apprentices should be ready to put a lot of energy into learning and working on the farm and be excited by the opportunity to act as ambassadors for the organization and food and farming in general. Please be sure you have explored our entire website and are familiar with all of our program offerings before filling out the application form.
