



Livestock Position Available – Fall 2011

About Green Mountain Girls Farm

We grow healthy (natural & sustainable), happy (free range and loved) animals and vegetables. In addition to raising tasty food, we provide a wonderful respite for visitors. Our Omnivore's Farm Share provides local, organically managed meat (pork, chicken, turkey, lamb & goat), eggs, vegetables, and goat milk in a free-choice, year-round format. We also sell our products individually at the farm and local farmers market. We offer people the opportunity to experience a bit of farm life through lodging or events in our Barn Guest House or paid farm experiences such as learning to milk, collecting eggs or being a farmer-in-training.

We farm relationships. Many who raise livestock on pasture call themselves "grassfarmers" and we hold that as a proud and accurate label for our work. But our more primary identity is as relationship farmers. For example we nurture connections between invisible fungal structures in our soils and grow food that is both more nutrient dense and less labor intensive to produce than conventional agriculture. We also take great care to be relevant in our community.

We think we and our customers can know and name our animals, ultimately appreciating not only the taste and health qualities of grass-fed meat but also the meaning it holds. Our complex bottom line results from our understanding of these interrelationships. Our farm's success relates directly to the health of the natural systems and community within which it dwells. The micro-enterprises of the Green Mountain Girls Farm and the Farm's whole identity attempt to celebrate and where necessary restore connections and create connection. This awareness influences our practices across all domains of our business from the complex bottom line to our free choice farm share.

What to Expect

We work hard and have long days, but aim to be as efficient as possible by working smarter, coming to the day prepared to work hard (adequate sleep, etc is a part of each person's responsibilities) and taking care of our bodies during the day (water, food, swims, etc.). We care about the quality of our work, our team, our community, our land and our products and expect the same of all that work with us regardless of whether they are volunteers, apprentices or paid staff. We have high expectations of ourselves and we expect all team members to perform at their best, (most of the time).

We have a strengths-based management philosophy. Based on individual's talents and natural strengths we refine each person's role. At times, it may also mean something you like, but aren't great at, gets pulled from your role description. We require teammates to take the [Strengthsfinder Assessment](#) and share their results. It is an online assessment tool available through purchase of *Now Discover Your Strengths* or *Strengthsfinder 2.0*.

During 2011, the farm is expanding onto the adjacent property and implementing substantial new farm systems. We will further our business development plans under the coaching of the Intervale's Success on Farms Program as part of our participation in the Vermont Farm Viability Program. We are doubling the size of our farm share and launching the farmstay component of the farm, while continuing to collaborate with the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative. A full overview of the farm's offerings is available at www.EatStayFarm.com.

To apply, please review the full position description and send a letter outlining your interest and experience along with a resume to Farmers@EatStayFarm.com.

Livestock Position Description

Work with farmers on rotationally grazing all livestock, managing our small goat dairy herd, including daily milking, pasture management and general livestock health and wellbeing. We raise Tamworth pigs, dairy goats, turkeys, and chickens.

Care for animals daily, including feeding, pasturing, breeding care and management, parasite management. Use the farm's complex bottom line and quality standards to ensure healthy, thriving livestock and efficient farm production. A majority of this person's time will be spent on all aspects of livestock related production, the balance will be on swarm related crop activities, general farm building and grounds management, and basic customer interaction and marketing. We are looking for someone who thrives in a demanding work environment and can balance high quality work with a fast pace.

Daily/Weekly Tasks

- Provide daily feed and water
- Move fencing, shelters and animals
- Participate in daily milking
- Collect, wash & package eggs
- Track pasture rotations, health, milk & egg production
- Regular cleaning, maintenance & storage of livestock equipment from water vessels to fencing
- Seasonal transitions for livestock (winter housing preparations, bedded pack management, et al.)
- General farm upkeep
- Participation in Crop related work

Possible Special Projects

- Poultry butchering
- Lead farm tours & experiences for guests
- Infrastructure improvements
- Compost care and monitoring
- Write blog & newsletter entries

Qualifications

- Demonstrated responsibility & reliability
- Experience with livestock, and comfort with large animals is required; experience with electric fencing systems, hoof work, etc. preferred
- Proven capacity for balancing high quality deliverables with the fast pace necessary for the farm's viability
- Agility and strength: Capable of physically strenuous work, must be able to lift 50lb; work physically outside in any Vermont weather all day, productively and with a good attitude
- Experience working in a team atmosphere as well as individually
- Good communication skills and willingness to ask for clarification or assistance
- Enjoy hard work and working here
- Ability to drive manual transmission required
- Experience with MS Excel and proven success with record keeping
- Bovine experience a plus as we are considering adding cows as a part of parasite management

Schedule

+/- 40 hours week, 5-6 days a week, will include Saturday or Sunday and holidays.

There will be some seasonal variation with hours and schedule. Position opens immediately.

Remuneration

- Hourly wage, \$8-10 per hour, depending on experience
- Farmer's Farm Share (value \$40 week of Farmer eggs, milk, veggies and meat)
- Lunch most days: lunch prep for the entire team will be shared amongst all team members
- \$100/year of workshop and conference fees covered and work time to attend. Can be from NOFA, Vermont Grass Farmers Association, UVM Extension, Highfields Composting or other related organization.
- Addressing a personal learning agenda which will focus on all aspects of livestock management, but will also address other farm related learning goals of the employee.