



**Missouri Beginning Farmers**  
learn. connect. grow.

## 2019 Franciscan Farm Internship Application

### Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)

The Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) through the partnership of the University of Missouri Extension, Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Brain Injury Association of Missouri is pleased to announce the release of the Internship Application for Franciscan Farm. These internships, which will foster a year of experiential learning, are an integral part of reaching out to Beginning Farmers to provide hands-on training to succeed in present and future farming business endeavors.

Application Open: February 12, 2019

Application Deadline: March 5, 2019 by 5:00pm

#### **For questions, or to submit completed application:**

**Email:**

Jackson Zimmerman, Farm Coordinator, [jack@fsolph.org](mailto:jack@fsolph.org)

**Phone:** 636-222-2799

**Mail:**

Franciscan Farm  
12824 Peter Moore Lane  
De Soto, MO 63020

***Please do not drop off applications at Franciscan Farm without prior contact and conversation with Jackson Zimmerman.***

**In person at the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help *Tau* Center in Kirkwood  
(9:00am-4:00pm, M-F)**

335 S. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(Door faces Kirkwood Rd. We are behind PNC Bank)

**Fax to Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 314-965-3710**



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



### **What is the Franciscan Farm?**

Located near downtown De Soto in Jefferson County, the Franciscan Farm is a beautiful, mostly wooded, 40-acre piece of land. The vegetable garden is approximately one-quarter acre with an addition half-acre pollinator garden. There are several acres of hay, a small lake, a 400 square foot greenhouse, lawns, a house and a large garden shed. There is the possibility to expand the cultivated area and to include fruit trees, cane fruit or other perennial or annual crops.

### **About Interning at the Franciscan Farm**

An internship with the Franciscan Farm is for individuals interested in developing knowledge and skills, and attitudes that will promote success in present and future growing endeavors.

An internship might be right for you if you:

- Have little or no growing experience but are motivated to learn sustainable growing practices
- Are looking for a hands-on internship where you will share your ideas and experiences, get dirty, be challenged, learn a lot, and be encouraged to use your gifts— not only your muscles
- Value quality work, are adaptable, collaborative and willing to follow instructions

The Franciscans for Earth extends a special welcome to all. Those who have special needs and benefit from a relaxed pace, compassionate understanding and individually-designed adaptations may find an internship especially beneficial.

Depending on individual interest, season and other factors, an intern may have the opportunity to:

- Participate in educational programs, community building, service initiatives and environmental advocacy.
  - Preparing, organizing, leading and presenting educational events
  - Farmer's market—harvesting, marketing, customer relations and sales
  - Food pantry deliveries, networking
  - Organizing and participating in farm-to-fork initiatives



- Learn basic sustainable growing concepts and practical skills for small-scale, locally-focused, minimally-mechanized growing:
  - Garden planning: Timing, crop rotation, companion planting, materials sourcing, etc.
  - Soil building: composting, vermiculture, cover crops, no-till gardening, raised rows, etc.
  - Propagation: Seedling production, planting, transplanting
  - Garden maintenance: Cultivation, weed management, pest management, watering, fertilizing
  - Season extension: Overwintering crops, greenhouse use, cold frames and high tunnels
  - Produce use, storage and waste minimization: Cooking produce, preservation, seed saving
  
- Develop knowledge and skills through intensive workshops and/or hands-on practice. Examples might include but are not limited to:
  - Understanding the connections between farming, food and social justice
  - Promoting fair, just and sustainable systems
  - Building raised beds
  - Growing specialty market crops such as microgreens
  - Designing and promoting farm-based hospitality
  
- Use the Franciscan Farm as a platform to
  - Develop and facilitate events, educational experiences, gatherings, etc.
  - Test ideas or crops when you don't have land of your own
  - Experiment with alternative methods (ex. square foot, straw bale, or container gardens)

The internship program is just beginning. As such, it is flexible and open to innovation and imagination. It will change and grow over time. We welcome your input, ideas, and creative suggestions!



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**Personal Information**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Date of Birth:

**Internship Interests**

What are your goals in participating in the BFRDP?

How would interning at the Franciscan Farm fit into those goals?



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What are you most interested in learning as an intern?

Do you have any specific expectations or requirements of your internship experience?

Please briefly describe your experience with farming or gardening or other relevant experiences. (Classes, volunteer work, paid employment, etc.)



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Please describe any physical wellbeing and any physical challenges you face that may be relevant to interning at the Franciscan Farm. What special strengths or needs do you have?

**Scheduling**

*\*Flexible scheduling may be possible, including weekends, very early mornings, evenings and variable hours throughout the year. Work on the farm is available year round with significantly more hours possible from late winter through late fall.*

When can you begin your internship?

Can you commit to regular hours and days? If so, how many days/hours can you work per week? Which days and hours are best for you?

Do you have particular schedule limitations to consider such as a long commute to the Franciscan Farm, a variable work schedule at your job, etc.?