



Apprenticeship Application Form

The more information you provide, the better. This will help us determine if you would be a good fit for the farm.

1. Are you interested in working on the farm or in the creamery? Note: apprentices work either on the farm or in the creamery, but not split between both.
2. How did you hear about working at Cricket Creek?
3. What interests you most about working here?
4. What is your availability? Are you able to commit to a full year? When can you start (give an exact date please)?
5. What is your experience working/living in an intimate setting like a small farm?
6. Is a starting stipend of \$500/month (with the possibility of increasing up to \$1,000 per month) financially feasible for you?
7. How do you feel about our work schedule – 5 to 6 long days per week? Do you have experience with a schedule like this? If so, please describe the context.
8. How would you describe your communication skills? Are you open, honest, and communicative?
9. How would you describe your interest/ability to be a public face of the farm (attending farmers markets, assisting customers in our farm store)?
10. Have you ever lived in this area? Do you think Northern Berkshire County would be a good fit for you?
11. Would you be available for a 1-day work visit between now and your start date?
12. Please list anything else you think might be helpful in describing yourself such as personal interests, etc.

If you are applying to work in the creamery:

- A. Please describe in detail any cheese making experience.
- B. What specifically interests you in cheese making – details are helpful.
- C. Please describe any commercial food preparation/handling experience.
- D. Would you describe yourself as meticulous, detail oriented, clean, and thorough?
- E. Cheese making involved a lot of dishwashing, cleaning, and maintenance. Do you think you are well suited to this type of work?
- F. Apprentices take on tremendous responsibility in the creamery, there will be tasks that you alone are responsible for completing (especially in the area of cheese maintenance and care), do you think you are well suited to this type of arrangement?

If you are applying to work on the farm:

- A. Please describe in detail any farm experience you have, specifically work with animals.
- B. Do you have experience milking cows? Please describe the set-up in detail.
- C. Please describe any experience you have with tractor maintenance and repair.
- D. Please describe any general building/maintenance/construction experience you have.
- E. Farm apprentices often work alone – getting up to milk in the morning, doing chores, driving the tractor all day and making hay – do you think you are well suited to this type of independent work?
- F. Please describe any experience you have making hay.
- G. Why are you interested in working with cows specifically?