

WVU Organic Farm Internship Application

The WVU Organic Internship Program was established to promote and educate students on organic farming techniques, policy and issues. Students enrolled in this program will be exposed to all facets of managing an organic farm from developing a farm plan to maintaining organic certification and dealing with problems and opportunities inherent to organic production of plants and animals. Applications are sought from highly motivated students with a clear interest in organic farming. This internship is a paid position and will require physical work, timeliness, attention to detail, and a professional attitude towards people and tasks at hand. Students will be paired with faculty in specific discipline areas and work on projects in these specific disciplines while also – as a group – help to maintain the WVU organic farm during the summer season. Opportunities to start before the official starting date of the internship (May 8th, 2017) and continue through the end of the summer (August 11th, 2017) may be available. The application deadline for the internship application is January 15th, 2017. Please submit this application in person or an e-mail to Dr. Sven Verlinden on or before the **due date of January 13th, 2017**. Initial screening of candidates will be followed by in person interviews with faculty in charge of individual projects and Dr. Verlinden. Questions or comments should also be directed to Dr. Verlinden.

Dr. Sven Verlinden

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WVU Organic Farm Internship Program

- Five to six interns will be hired in the following and assist in the following discipline areas for 35 hours per week: entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, soil science, agronomy, animal science, and marketing.
- Students will be assigned to groups to assist in research for average of 15 hours per week and 20 hours per week on general farm tasks and maintenance of plots.
- The internship program will officially run from May 8 through August 11 but special arrangements will be made to extend these terms to facilitate initiation and termination of ongoing projects (e.g. transplant production, cool season crop production, insect and disease monitoring, soil sampling,...). Students will have to attend unpaid organizational meetings throughout the Spring 2017 semester.
- Students will have to be 100% committed to the internship and will only take summer classes with special permission of the supervising faculty.
- A weekly one hour meeting will be organized to further student education in organic production beyond assigned projects throughout the summer growing season (tentatively a lunch meeting on Mondays).
- Interns will be expected to attend a weekly farm organizational meeting
- Two all-day field trips to local small farms and organic farms will be organized throughout the summer.
- Interns will actively participate in recruiting, organizing, and implementation of the annual organic farm field day
- Students will keep detailed journals and write a reaction/reflection paper due on August 11 (Friday)
- Students will sign up for 3 credit hours of professional field experience unless special arrangements are made with supervising faculty
- Schedule of events/important dates
 - November 21 (Monday): Call for applications
 - January 13 (Friday) Application due
 - January 20 (Friday): First round of successful candidates notified
 - January 27 (Friday) – May 5 (Friday): 5 Informational/organizational meeting
 - May 8 (Monday): First day of internship
 - August 11 (Friday): Last day of the internship
 - September TBD(Saturday TBD): Organic farm field day

Contact:

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