Everdale’s Sustainable Farming Certificate Program

Application form

# Application process

Before writing your application, carefully read all the material presented here, the program description document and go through our website to learn more about our other programs.

Whenever possible, we encourage prospective apprentices to visit and volunteer at Everdale farm for a day or more during the April-November growing season of the year prior to their application. This is an excellent opportunity for you to talk with the current apprentices and get a better idea of what Everdale is and how the SFC program works. Contact the Farm Programs Coordinator (david.alexander@everdale.org) to arrange a good day to visit.

The application process is as follows:

1. Send your full application (form and attachments) by email to the Farm Programs Coordinator. You will be notified that your application has been received.
2. If your application is a good match for our program then you will be contacted to arrange a phone discussion with one of Everdale’s staff members.
3. If the phone discussion is positive for the applicant and for the staff member then your references will be contacted.
4. If you references are positive and indicate a good match with our program then an in-person discussion and working interview at Everdale will be arranged. It is understood that those living far away may not be able to make the trip here in which case we may decide to have a second phone conversation instead, but in person visits are strongly recommended.
5. If the in-person discussion is positive for the applicant and for Everdale then an SFC position will be offered in the days following the in-person discussion.

You are welcome to contact Everdale at any time during this process to check on the status of your application. Our goal is to have all positions filled between December and February. The earlier you send your application the sooner you will receive a response and the better your chances of being offered a position.

Applications are accepted year round and the program is filled on a first come first serve basis.

Please fill out this form in Microsoft Word and email it as an attachment when submitting your application.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old. International candidates will be considered but only if they have an appropriate visa and their own private health insurance.

Please answer the application questions honestly and openly. This is not a test. It’s a discovery process. Your application should help you determine if Everdale’s SFC program is the right fit for you.

**Section One**

Your full name

Your permanent mailing address

Your e-mail address

Your phone number(s)

Are you currently a resident or citizen of Canada?

If no, then will you be able to obtain a Canadian visa and health insurance if you are accepted to the program?

How did you hear about the SFC program?

Have you visited Everdale? If yes, when? Which staff members did you meet?

Do you fully understand the barter nature of the program? Housing, education, vegetables and a modest stipend in exchange for help on the farm while you gain practical experience.

**Section Two**

1. Do you have any past gardening/farming experience?
2. What is your academic background?
3. Do you hold any active non-academic certificates or papers?
4. Do you have a valid driver’s license? If so, how long have you had it for?
5. Do you have specific dietary needs or requirements? Please provide details.
6. Please describe any experience that you have in each of the following activities:
   1. Formal or informal teaching and instruction
   2. Managerial and supervisory work
   3. Cooking
   4. Volunteering
   5. Organized sports and athletics
   6. Operating road vehicles
   7. Operating tools and equipment
   8. Operating farm machinery
   9. Building things on your own or with other people
   10. Entrepreneurial activities
   11. Arts and music
   12. Computer work
   13. Please list and describe any other related work or recreational experience or skills that you would like us to know about.
7. Everdale’s home farm has livestock animals. Livestock is not the focus of the SFC program but there are opportunities to be more involved with the animals should an apprentice choose. Do you have an interest in livestock husbandry?

**Section Three**

1. Organic farming is often viewed as an alternative lifestyle. What does this mean to you and how important is this in your decision to apply? Explain your answer.
2. How would you define “efficiency” in terms of farming?
3. How would you define “sustainable farming”?
4. Living in a communal setting for any length of time can be challenging. What expectations do you have about communal living at the farm? What experiences and skills will you bring to this situation? Have you lived in communal situations in the past?
5. The curriculum components of the SFC does have some requirements attached to it. There will be in-class time and may be assigned readings, assignments, testing and homework. Do you feel you are ready to tackle the curriculum requirements? Why or why not?
6. What are you most expecting to gain from the SFC program?
7. What do you anticipate will be the biggest challenges for you in completing the SFC program?
8. What future use do you hope to make of your farming skills?
9. In order of importance please list which of the following best describes your reasons for wanting to learn more about organic farming and gardening? Add as many other categories as you wish.
   1. Self-sufficiency: Learn how to grow food for myself.
   2. Food justice: Use farming/gardening as a way to promote social change.
   3. Economic: Make some or all of my future income selling healthy food.
   4. Lifestyle: Pursue a rewarding hobby.
   5. Personal health: physical activity, healthy diet.
   6. Artistic: Create beautiful gardens or landscapes.
   7. Ecological: a platform for creating ecological solutions.
   8. Social: A way to connect with people.
   9. Other: Please elaborate.
10. Imagine where you might be at this time next year and what you might be doing? Think of two scenarios (one farming, one non-farming). Please give a description of both imaginary scenarios.
11. Imagine where you might be in twenty years and what you might be doing? Think of two scenarios (one farming, one non-farming). Please give a description of both imaginary scenarios.
12. Farm work is hard physical work in hot sun or freezing cold with long hours. What is the hardest you’ve worked for something? Physically and/or mentally?
13. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you that hasn’t been asked above?

Thank you for filling out the application form. Please email it along with the following items to david.alexander@everdale.org

* References: Please list below the names of three references along with their contact information (mailing address, phone number, and email address). We don’t need reference letters, just contact info. References must be from people such as employers, instructors, associates and others in a position to comment on your work style and character. References from family members and from people whose sole relationship with you is as a 'friend' are not accepted.
* Photo: (optional). It’s particularly useful for us to have a photo of you if you have visited Everdale in the past but only briefly. It helps us remember who you are.
* Resume

Please send your application along with the above documents to:

David Alexander, Farm Programs Coordinator, david.alexander@everdale.org