

DAIRY GRAZING APPRENTICESHIP

Farm Placement/Transition/Purchase Opportunities for DGA Graduates

Please submit completed form to Apprenticeship Director, Angie Sullivan, at angie@dga-national.org

Type of Opportunity (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm for sale (land and facilities)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy business sale (including cows)	<input type="checkbox"/> Business partnership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Share milking or other equity earning opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):	
Contact Information		Today's date:	
Name:			
Address:			
Phone:		Email:	
Please describe the opportunity you are offering:			
Timeline for making transition:			
Farm Description		Housing available?	
		Yes	No
Total acres:	Pasture acres:	Crop acres:	
Describe facilities (animal housing, milking facilities, manure storage, etc):			
Describe livestock, if available (numbers, milking, young stock, breed, etc.):			
Other information:			

Apprenticeship 2024

Grand View Farm, 749 Hanover Drive, Dorchester, IA 52140

Contact: Tim Welsh tim@agrisource.co.th

Farm Description: Our 5th generation 500-acre family farm in the Driftless region of NE Iowa currently is cash rented for production of conventional corn, soybeans, hay, oats, and Kernza. We rotationally graze dairy heifers and dry cows on perennial pasture May-October on a contract basis for a local dairyman. We're planting cover crops and more Kernza to extend grazing and increase perennials, improving pastures and woodlands with agroforestry-silvopasture, and renovating prairies and oak savannas.

Job Description: Pastures and grazing: Assist Tim with all aspects of pasture and rotational grazing management of dairy heifers and dry cows, including planning and record keeping; herd moves; fencing setup and repairs (poly, tensile, barbed); permanent water system installation and repairs; cattle monitoring and occasionally helping the cattle owner with animal care; pasture mowing; and weed management. During part of the summer, there may also be 15-20 goats to manage for control of invasive brush and weeds for agroforestry.

Agroforestry / Silvopasture and Prairies / Savanna: Assist Tim with prairie and CRP burns; site prep and planting of 200 hardwood and pine saplings in April-May; mulching, tubing, weed & deer control around young trees; brush clearing and control of invasive plants; assist with design and preparing for a larger agroforestry and silvopasture project to begin 2025. Contractors will be hired to manage the burns. Other part time labor may be hired to assist.

Farm equipment and infrastructure: Help construct, maintain, and repair farm buildings, yards, and machinery.

The apprentice will be considered for the full-time farm manager position that will become open later in 2024 or spring 2025 (a separate job description can be provided).

Qualifications: Strong ethics, honesty, and integrity. Eager to learn and take responsibility, work hard and smart with a positive teamwork mindset, communicate clearly and respectfully give/receive feedback. Detail oriented, with good organizational and time management skills. Good recordkeeping skills and computer proficiency. You must be physically fit and flexible, able to work 3-4 hours at a time outside in all weather, and able to lift up to 50 lbs. Some farm experience is expected. You must have a driver's license and your own vehicle. Experience and skills that are preferred but not required include: cattle grazing and pasture management; operating ATV, tractor, or skid steer and attachments, chain saw, other power and hand tools; mechanical skills.

Timing: Full-time mid-April through October or November is preferred, but we can coordinate with your schedule or other jobs. Expect up to 8-hour days and up to 40-hour weeks, Monday through Friday, with some weekend work depending on schedules. Some days may be more than 8 hours due to extreme weather or high priority jobs. Expect 1-2 days off each week. There will be some 2-3 day periods and at least one 1-week period in August when Tim needs to travel, so the apprentice will be responsible for farm operations.

Benefits

Pay: \$15-20/hr depending on experience and housing & meal arrangements. We will pay for time to attend up to 3 field days during the apprenticeship.

The apprentice is responsible to have his/her own health coverage.

Housing: The apprentice can arrange their own housing, or room and board can be provided on the farm. If the apprentice prefers to find their own housing, there are rental options in the area. Off-farm housing will be at the apprentice's expense. On-farm housing will be a tiny house with a chemical toilet near our farm house, or a bedroom in the house may be available with a bath shared by family members. For on-farm housing, the pay will be adjusted accordingly.

We have good cell phone reception and fiber optic cable with a good WiFi system that works within 100' of the house.

Food: It is preferred that the apprentice provide for his/her own meals. We will also invite the apprentice to join us for some family meals. Apprentices are welcome to forage on our farm and woodlands for wild mushrooms, berries, herbs, and other goodies.

Location: Waukon, the county seat, is 9 miles away; Lansing is a river town 16 miles away; Decorah is a nice community with many amenities 27 miles west.

Apprentices may use our bicycles and kayaks to enjoy the area. Our farm is 5 miles from the Upper Iowa River and within 15-20 miles of the Mississippi and Yellow rivers. Effigy Mounds National Monument, Yellow River State Forest, and numerous trout streams and wildlife refuges are also nearby.

Please send an email with cover letter, resume, and contact info for 2 references.