



Orchard Assistant Wanted

As orchard assistant in our southwest Wisconsin organic apple orchard, you'll help with most aspects of growing apples, from planting trees to harvesting and packing fruit. Learn the craft working side by side with the farmers and other employees in a beautiful, safe and respectful environment. This is hard outdoor work that demands concentration and focus to produce quality fruit. Horticultural experience and handy skills are good, but not essential - we will train the right person.

About Blue Roof Orchard. Farmers Chris & Juli McGuire use craftsmanship and care to grow delicious, beautiful, distinguished apples for local consumers. Our four-acre orchard includes over 30 varieties of apples. We sell our fruit directly to consumers, to grocery stores, and food processors.

[Read our website.](#)

Location: 19638 Cottage Inn Road, Blue Roof Orchard, Belmont WI. 55 minutes southwest of Madison, 30 minutes northeast of Dubuque.

What You Will Do Here

- Plant trees • Prune and train • Hand weed and hoe • Spread mulch • Thin fruitlets • Harvest, grade, and pack apples • Install and maintain irrigation systems • Maintain property around the orchard • Possibly, operate tractors to mow and move materials • Maintain buildings and tools • Other tasks as needed

Dates, Times, and Pay

- Start mid-March to early April. End Nov 1-Dec 1.
- Monday-Friday 8:30-Noon, 1:00-5:00.
- We can modify the schedule for the right worker – please ask. We strongly prefer full-time, but we will consider part-time schedules (minimum half-time).
- Pay starts at \$18-\$22 per hour, depending on skills. Raises and bonuses possible.

At This Job, You'll Need To:

- Perform repetitive physical work outdoors in hot, cold, and rainy weather; work from a short ladder (4-5 feet above ground); pick apples with a 20 lb basket strapped to your torso; lift and carry 40-50 lb crates; and bend, kneel and stoop repeatedly.
- Work carefully, observe the trees and fruit, and pay attention to detail. We are fastidious.
- Be quick. Not sloppy or careless, but efficient. Time is money; and money pays you, pays us, and keeps the farm afloat.
- Communicate and cooperate with us and your co-workers. When you see something that's wrong or could be done better, speak up.
- Show a good attitude. Respect your work and your co-workers. No exceptions – this is the one essential.

If you can do the things listed above, we can train you. Experience in fruit-growing, farming, basic carpentry and handy work, and/or operating tractors is helpful, but not required.

Why work for us?

We're serious about what we do. We do have fun while we work: we laugh, talk, and look at the bugs and birds. But, mainly, we work while we work. We delight in the work that feeds people, the work done by the hands we know, the work that keeps the land healthy and beautiful. We love the sight of a well-weeded row, a neatly pruned row of trees, and a crate of newly picked apples. If you like a job well done, you'll be happy and valued here.

We respect people. We deeply appreciate what others do on our farm. Many of our most joyful and vivid memories are of the work we did alongside employees. We are considerate and respectful of personal time and needs. We devote time and thought to training workers, answering their questions, and making sure they understand their work.

We're a farm that produces. While all farms are subject to the vagaries of unpredictable weather and mechanical breakdowns, we have put years of experience, thought, and planning into shaping methods that work. We organize our time and our tools. You'll work hard here, but your work won't be wasted. If you want to learn how to farm yourself, you'll see an example of a system that works.

How to apply

1. Apply using our [online application](#).
2. We will acknowledge your application, and we may schedule an interview and check references.
3. A paid trial work session in the orchard will be required before we offer a job.

Application deadline is February 28, or until filled.

Questions? Email us at farmers@bluerooforchard.com