

Work Share Guide

Blue Sky Vegetable Co.
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About Us:

Blue Sky Vegetable Co.(BSVC) is a small-scale vegetable farm owned and operated by Kjersten and Dirk Oudman. We have been married for six years and have been farming together for most of that time. BSVC is a production farm that seeks to serve the Sioux Empire with fresh produce people can trust. We serve people primarily through our Farm Share model, which is similar to a subscription model where folks purchase a Farm Share and then receive fresh produce for twenty weeks. We farm using sustainable methods. We are not certified organic at this time, though we use organic fertilizers and pest control. We value transparency, sustainability, high-quality, and community and allow those values to guide how we farm.

Farm Team:

The majority of the work done at BSVC is completed by Kjersten and Dirk. We may also have help from family members such as parents or siblings, but we do not have any employees as of 2023. We value the work done by Worker Shares and see Worker Shares as integral parts of our farm operation. We are looking for people who bring a positive attitude, strong work effort, and kind personality. Kjersten and Dirk are the supervisors on the farm and one of them will be the “point person” depending on the task. Kjersten is the point person for tasks such as seed starting, harvesting, and packing vegetables. Dirk is the point person for tractor work, weeding, transplanting, and other mechanical work.

Farm Work:

A Worker Share is someone who works for one four-hour shift on a weekly basis throughout the season in exchange for produce that is at least equal to a Standard Farm Share (plus potential extras). Working on a farm means every day may look different. Though it also requires many repeated actions. We are looking for people who would be interested in doing tasks such as harvesting vegetables, washing and packing vegetables, weeding, and some planting. Harvesting vegetables and packing vegetables will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. It will require people to stay focused, be able to take instruction well, and be detailed-orientated. Harvesting will require the most physical labor as it means bending over repeatedly and carrying bins up to thirty pounds. Packing vegetables will be done mostly inside our packing facility but will still require lifting bins. Weeding and planting will also require moderate physical labor.

Farm work is done in rain or shine. Most days are beautiful, but workers will need to be prepared to work in all elements. We do our best to plan jobs around the weather, but tasks such as harvesting need to be completed in any weather condition. Workers will need to keep up with the work pace set by Kjersten or Dirk. We encourage social interactions while working and enjoy getting to know people but expect workers to talk while their hands are working. If one task is completed, please ask for the next task or look for another task that is in need of attention. The more time spent on the farm, the easier it becomes to notice these tasks.

Benefits:

You will be provided with produce equal to at least a Standard share for approximately 4 hours of work per week. We are happy to share our bounty with folks who share with us in the tasks. You will also be invited to any Farm Share events throughout the season.

Shifts:

Monday 8 am – 12 pm, 1 pm to 5pm

Wednesday 8 am – 12 pm

Thursday 8 am – 12 pm, 1 pm to 5 pm

Illness/Unforeseen Circumstances:

Please do not come to the farm if you are sick. Please notify us via call or text (608-574-7933) to let us know if you are unable to make it to your shift. If unforeseen circumstances come up, please notify us as well.

Expectations:

- Please be on time
- Tie back long hair
- Bring a water bottle and clothing that is suited to the weather. Close-toed shoes are preferred, though sandals such as Chacos or Keens are also suitable. A pair of rain boots is preferable for rainy days or when washing produce in the pack shed.
- Drug use and smoking are not allowed on the farm at any time. Failure to comply with this will mean being “let go” from the Worker Share program.
- Please take extra caution when driving on the farm and watch closely for kids and dogs.
- Please keep your cell phone use to a minimum. You may have it to listen to music while working, but please refrain from using it for social media or texting while working.
- Help clean up tools and facilities at the end of a task.
- Please be professional and courteous to any customer or person who comes to the farm, as a Worker Share, you are a face of the farm.
- Please notify Kjersten via text or call if you are unable to make it to your shift.
- Failure to attend a weekly shift without discussing a time to make up or reschedule a shift with Kjersten or Dirk will mean a forfeit of vegetables for the week.

Good Agricultural Practices

- Wash your hands with soap and water before coming to work, after using the restroom, and before touching washed produce. This is especially important on harvest days.
- We will train you on food safety policies at the start of your time and keep you updated throughout the season. We value clean produce.

Thank you for being part of the team! We are thankful for you!