

# Join the 2018 Brix Bounty Crew

Field Crew

**Full & Part-Time Positions, Full Season & Summertime**



*Located in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Brix Bounty Farm works as a community catalyst producing nutrient rich vegetables, providing educational opportunities, and undertaking crop & soil research. This coming season we'll actively crop ~7 acres of direct marketed vegetables. Our production methods are grounded in realizing the wealth of productivity resulting from biologically managed soils, renewed with a broad spectrum of minerals. We market 95% of our vegetables on the farm: through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program (~80 summertime shares, ~40 wintertime shares) and a self-serve farm stand (~\$125K annual sales). The remaining vegetables are marketed at the downtown New Bedford Farmers Market located approximately 5 miles from the farmgate.*

*We invest in our natural capital (soils) and human capital (community), building renewable sources of wealth. Efforts include improving food security through community projects which increase knowledge and awareness of sustainable production techniques on farms and in backyard and community gardens. Working with local non-profits and community groups we bridge the connection between soil, diet, and health. Join us as we strive to renew the prosperity of the commons along the Southcoast of Massachusetts.*

## **Field Crew & Assistant Manager Position(s)**

We are seeking crew members to join us for the 2018 season to complete our “core” farm team; flexible start dates beginning in April, May, & June continuing through the late summer/fall. For full-time positions we typically hire folks who consider making a commitment to a second season with us at Brix Bounty.

Duties include all aspects of commercial vegetable production, propagation, transplanting & seeding, cultivation, irrigation\* & fertility management, harvest, post-harvest & marketing\* work (\* limited). Relative to our scale, we are unusually non-mechanized, cultivation is primarily done with hoes, wheel hoes, & hand tools. Our operation involves hand labor from planting, cultivating, to harvesting and applicants must be capable of labor intensive work weeks through the season. Marketing tasks are relatively minimal for our crew. We focus our energy intensively on field work through the growing season.

Average 50-60 hours per week, a 5-day work week plus 1 weekend per month (see details below for more on schedule, farm responsibilities, etc.). Our typical summer schedule is 7AM – 5:30 PM with an hour break for lunch. Remuneration includes hourly wages \$11-\$14 per hour depending on skill and experience, vegetables, paid personal time, mentorship, and end of season bonus.

**Brix Bounty Farm - *Growing a Foundation for Health ... Starts in the Soil***

Mail: 1 Seth Davis Way, Dartmouth, MA 02748      Farm: 449 Bakerville Road, Dartmouth, MA 02748

508.992.1868      [derekchristianson@gmail.com](mailto:derekchristianson@gmail.com)      [www.brixbounty.com](http://www.brixbounty.com)

Our scale is intentionally focused on connecting with the land, growers seeking mechanized production techniques, intensive tractor work, and large harvest crews are best suited to seek out other options. Our crew members do best working independently and in small groups sharing a passion for hard work with an emphasis on fertility improvements and high quality production. A connection and interest in farming in Southeastern Massachusetts beyond tenure at Brix Bounty is preferred, but not required.

Must be able to routinely and repetitively lift 50 lbs. and carry out a wide range of farm duties with speed, skill, & agility, across a variety of field conditions.

To apply, send a letter of interest and relevant agricultural experience to Derek Christianson ([derekchristianson@gmail.com](mailto:derekchristianson@gmail.com)) or 1 Seth Davis Way, Dartmouth, MA 02748. Qualified candidates will be invited to interview and visit the farm. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

## **Brix Bounty Farm – Farming Position Details**

### **Brix Bounty Background**

Our farm was founded in 2008, we are privately owned and produce vegetables on rented farmland. Our family is principally supported by the farm business and profitability of the operation is essential. We are intentional about our scale, growing on a land base which allows for the time & care grounded in hand labor. We sacrifice efficiencies found on larger farm for our relationship with the land and gladly take on the labor intensive work. Fertility improvements are an essential element to providing robust return on our labor investments. We utilize sustainable production practices and do not use synthetic pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides. Our use of OMRI approved products for pest & disease control is minimal. We don't live on the farm, do not offer housing, and do not currently have any livestock on the farm.

**Tentative Hours** ~avg. 45-55 hrs/wk through the season, hours follow production demands

Our crew includes farm owner, 2-5 Field Crew Members depending on the season.

**Mar.** 9AM-5:00PM - M-F & 1-2 “light” weekends/month (w/seeding & watering) ~40hrs/wk

**April** 8AM-5:30PM - M-F & 1-2 “light” weekends/month (w/seeding & watering) ~50 hrs/wk

**May - September** 7AM-5:30PM - M-F & 1 weekend/month ~50-55 hrs/wk

**October** – 7AM-5:00PM - M-F & 1 weekend/month ~50 hrs/wk

**November** – 9AM-5PM - M-F & 1 weekend/month ~40 hrs/wk

*.5 days paid personal days accrued per month (e.g. March – October = 4 days)*

***Note:** Winter Hours Dec-Feb (for year round positions) ~9AM-5PM, 2-3 days/week ~20-30 hrs/wk*

## Remuneration

Educational Training & Mentorship – The full value in our farm positions are realized by individuals who are eager to continue their development as small-scale commercial vegetable growers. We value our capacity to mentor our crew and create time & space for their education on our farm and beyond. Employment at Brix Bounty includes time to attend education events and conferences and assistance with costs of attendance.

**Hourly Wage: \$11 - \$14 per hour depending on skill and experience + end of season bonus**

Plenty of fresh veggies for personal use (~1 Full CSA Share) ...

## Production Scale & Notes ~\$185K Vegetable Sales projected for 2018

~7 acres intensively planted annual vegetables, with some acreage double cropped and some in cover crops

2 - Fieldhouses (30'x96') for year round production (greens in the fall/winter, cukes and tomatoes in summer)

We will be constructing 2 or 3 additional Fieldhouses (30'x96') in 2018-2020

18'x72' Propagation House – we grow quite a few transplants for our size & scale – approx. 2,000 flats/year

Tillage is done cooperatively with the landowners (disk harrows, mini-chisel, subsoiler, field cultivator, & rotovator). Some blind cultivation for stale bedding done with tractors and , but most **cultivation is done by hand**. Seeding, transplanting, & harvesting is non-mechanized. We are 5 years into a ~8+ year rock picking effort.

We currently utilize very little irrigation on the farm, primarily drip irrigation. In 2017 we didn't irrigate any of our field crops. We'll drill a well in 2018 or 2019 and slightly increase our irrigation capacity, but in general we try to reduce labor time spent on irrigation.

2018 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> season on our new property (leased from the King Family). We started Brix Bounty Farm in 2008, systems are naturally still in development and will likely continue to evolve throughout the coming years.

## Marketing

Harvesting is done primarily on the “weekend” in May: Friday-Monday. We harvest daily June – November w/ one morning a week designated a “light” harvest day, reserved for non-harvest fertility/planting work as we are able.

## Self-Serve “Honor System” Roadside Stand (open daily mid-May until December)

Dartmouth hosts a sizable summer community, peak sales at the stand are in July & August. We are located directly adjacent to the Dartmouth High School, sales tend to remain strong into the fall.

**Summertime CSA** - 21 weeks (2<sup>nd</sup> week of June – late October) ~80 members  
w/ Tuesday & Friday Distributions 2PM-7PM

**Wintertime CSA** ~10-12 distributions (4-5 in Nov-Dec and 4-6 in Jan-May) ~40 members  
Friday Distributions every other week/monthly

**New Bedford Farmers Market (Thursdays 2PM-6PM early July – October)**

“Equal Access” Market, this market features a low number of vendors and low volume sales compared to more competitive markets. We have served the NB market since 2009.

## **Education & Community Work**

We value our non-production contributions to the community and encourage our farm staff to seek out options for community engagement. Education work is primarily directed toward commercial producers and focuses on soil fertility and farm profitability, though we also educate gardeners and teachers on the Southcoast & Beyond.

## **Research**

We may renew formal research efforts in 2018. Topics and projects are yet to be determined and will likely depend in part on the interest of crew members.

## **Interested in Joining the Brix Bounty Team?**

Please send a letter of interest to [derekchristianson@gmail.com](mailto:derekchristianson@gmail.com) or call 508-992-1868.

Additional information about the farm is available at [www.brixbounty.com](http://www.brixbounty.com)

Southcoast residents seeking to engage in agricultural and food systems careers are encouraged to apply.