

Join the 2022 Brix Bounty Crew

Field Crew

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



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 ~5 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 (~60 summertime shares, ~30 wintertime shares) and a self-serve farm stand (~\$175K annual sales). The remaining vegetables are marketed at the 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 2022 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 and are actively pursuing a career in sustainable agriculture.

Duties include all aspects of commercial vegetable production: propagation, transplanting & seeding, cultivation, fertility management, harvest, post-harvest. 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 40-60 hours per week, a 4 or 5-day work week plus weekend hours during the height of the season. Our typical summer schedule is 7AM – 5:30 PM with an hour break for lunch. Remuneration includes hourly wages \$15-\$18 per hour depending on skill and experience, vegetables, paid personal time, training and mentorship, and an 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 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 excel working both independently and in small groups, and 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 and weather conditions.

To apply, send a letter of interest and relevant agricultural experience to Derek Christianson (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 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. Most seasons we do utilize a selection of synthetic fertilizers (Calcium Nitrate and Mono-Ammonium Phosphate) alongside our organic inputs. 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. 40-60 hrs/wk through the season, hours follow production demands

Our crew includes farm owner and 2-5 Field Crew Members depending on the season. We hire for both 4 and 5 day workweek schedules, depending on the interest and availability of suitable candidates.

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

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

May - September 7AM-5:30PM - M-F & occasional weekend hours ~50-55 hrs/wk

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

November – 8AM-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-4PM, 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: \$15-18 per hour depending on skill and experience + end of season bonus

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

Production Scale & Notes ~\$225K Vegetable Sales projected for 2022

~5 acres intensively planted annual vegetables, with some acreage double cropped and some in cover crops

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

30'x96' Propagation House – we grow quite a few transplants for our size & scale – approx. 1,500 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, but most **cultivation is done by hand**. Seeding, transplanting, & harvesting is non-mechanized. We are 8 years into a ~10+ year rock picking effort.

We currently utilize very little irrigation on the farm, primarily drip irrigation. Outside of 2020, we haven't irrigated any of our field crops in the recent past. We try to reduce labor time spent on irrigation and instead focus our investments on soil fertility improvements and growing crops which are drought resistant.

2022 will be the 9th season on our current property (leased from the King Family). We started Brix Bounty Farm in 2008, though we are a relatively mature operation, our systems are naturally still changing and will likely continue to evolve throughout the coming years.

Marketing

Harvesting is done primarily on the “weekend” in May. 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 (daily mid-May > November) – Our main marketing channel 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 - 18 weeks (early June – early October) ~60 members – Tue/Fri afternoons

Wintertime CSA ~10-12 distributions ~30 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 regional 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

At this point we are not involved with formal research projects. Future projects will be determined and will depend in part on the interest of crew members.

Our Neighbors

The Southcoast is a wonderful community to work and live and we are glad to count ourselves among a cohort of thriving farms using sustainable production methods. Our neighbors at Flying Carrot Farm (Dartmouth), Freedom Food Farm (Raynham), Heart Beets Farm (Berkley), and Skinny Dip Farm (Little Compton, RI) may also have agricultural employment opportunities. If you are not familiar with these operations we suggest you also consider looking into them.

Interested in Joining the Brix Bounty Team?

Please send a letter of interest to derekchristianson@gmail.com or call 508-992-1868.

Additional information about the farm is available at www.brixbounty.com

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