

THE CIDER FARM

The Cider Farm – Orchard Worker

ABOUT THE CIDER FARM

- We are an expanding, organically managed apple orchard growing specialty apples to make The Cider Farm apple brandy and ciders. Neither product is made on-farm, but our cider is made at our Cidery and Tasting Room in Madison.
- We have been grafting and purchasing trees. About 16,000 trees are in the orchard.
- We are reclaiming over 60 ac of timberland from invasive species.
- We maintain over 35-acres of prairie, windbreaks, and pollinator habitat adjacent to orchard blocks.
- Our farm hosts research and educational initiatives as well as orchard tours during the growing season.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Ability to appropriately balance speed and quality of work.
- Strong verbal communication skills and ability to follow directions, particularly regarding safety.
- The work is very physical and outdoors. You must be able to frequently lift 30 to 50 lbs.; to bend and squat for work at the tree base; to run weed-wackers.
- Experience in horticultural production is desired, while previous orchard work is a plus. Mechanical skills are highly desired. Experience managing others is a plus; the right person could earn managerial responsibilities.

DUTIES

The work is diverse and changes from week to week, if not day to day. Work includes, but is not limited to:

- Graft apple and pear trees
- Prune trees. Apply limb spreaders and other tree training devices.
- Move, stabilize and weed deer fencing.
- Dig and plant trees.
- Install irrigation lines and emitters. Run irrigation. Check irrigation for repairs needed.
- Stake or trellis trees. Attach trees to stakes or trellising.
- Apply or remove tree guards from tree base.
- Hand weed. Operate a weed-wacker/brush cutter cautiously around trees, fencing, buildings and utilities.
- Sow cover crop or prairie seed.
- Assist with prairie burns.
- Apply mulches to tree rows and to protect irrigation system.
- Monitor for disease and insect pests. Remove insect pests.
- Spray trees and nursery stock with NOP-approved materials
- Harvest apples keeping records of all harvest-related information.
- Wash, sort and press apples, keeping track of varieties and amounts pressed.
- Spray garlic mustard in early spring or late fall with herbicide. Hand-pull garlic mustard at other times.
- Clean small and large equipment.
- Operate a skid steer, riding mower, and tractor for diverse tasks throughout the year.

DATES AND TIMES OF WORK

- March through November, weather permitting, Monday - Friday, plus a few Sundays for fall orchard tours.

TO APPLY Send cover letter and resume to deirdre@theciderfarm.com