

Rooster Ridge Farm

**Organization/Agency:**

Rooster Ridge Farm

Email:

roosterridge@cruzio.com

Phone:

831-662-8513

Supervisor/Sponsor: Nancy/Curt Abramson

Supervisor title: Owner

Needed for quarters:

Address: 660 Baker Road, Aptos CA 95003

**# of interns needed/
Hours worked per intern:**

Fall Winter

Keep on file for one year

1 / 6-12

Spring Summer

About:

Rooster Ridge is a small family-owned farm, growing certified organic fruit, flowers and limited row crops. Our mission is to operate at a high level of sustainability, and provide a fair income to our workers and return to the owners. Our major crops are avocados, citrus, olives and other tree fruit, as well as a variety of perennial flower crops such as Protea, roses, hydrangeas, lavender, dahlias, ranunculus and annual flowers. We have been operating close to 20 years, selling to local restaurants, grocery stores, florists and farmers' markets. Our production and sales have steadily increased, and we are planning further increases.

Internship Description:

Intern(s) will be involved in planning and executing production schedules intended to increase the efficiency, volume and profitability of our operations while maintaining appropriate levels of sustainability for resources. One particular project will be to assist in formatting annual schedules for propagation, planting, cultivation, integrated pest management, harvest and sales of our products. Another project will be analysis of irrigation schedules to ensure proper timing and amounts of water are applied to the diverse crops we grow, while conserving water to the best extent possible.

Interns will participate in all aspects of farm production operations to include: propagation of plant material from seeds, cuttings and rootstocks; site preparation, planting and cultivation of annual row crops as well as perennials, shrubs and trees; monitoring for crop pests including invertebrate and vertebrate, diseases and other pathogens, as well as performing corrective measures using integrated pest management best practices; harvest, post-harvest handling, and processing of products where appropriate; pruning and other maintenance tasks; installation and maintenance of farm infrastructure including irrigation, trellising, fencing, etc.

Prerequisites:

- Some prior experience in farming or gardening in a diverse small scale environment.
- A basic understanding of plant biology.
- Ability to perform physical labor, including lifting up to 50 lbs., standing for extended time periods, etc.
- The ideal candidate will be interested in learning about operating and managing a very diverse set of crops and products, and will possess the analytical skills to identify improvements in efficiency throughout such an environment.