



OGI Internship in Organic Horticulture

Host farm profile

BALLINCAREY FARM

Athy, Co. Kildare



FARM DETAILS

Owner/ manager name	Dermot Carey
Company name	Ballincarey Farm
Address	Athy, Co. Kildare
Web:	www.instagram.com/dermot.carey/

ABOUT THE FARM

We are a nine-acre organic horticulture enterprise dedicated to growing and supplying high-quality vegetables to restaurants, farmers' markets, and wholesale clients. Established in 2019 and certified organic in 2022, the farm continues to evolve year on year. Currently, we grow a diverse range of approximately 30 crops, utilizing a combination of field-scale plots and two 9x33m polytunnels to achieve high production.

Our Expertise

The farm is led by Dermot Carey, who brings a lifetime of horticultural experience to the business. Raised on a 100-acre vegetable farm in Co. Dublin, Dermot has been involved in the industry from an early age, supplying Dublin markets and growing top-quality vegetables for high-end restaurants.

Farm Infrastructure

Our farm is equipped with:

- Two David Brown classic tractors and implements for field cultivation.
- Two-wheel tractors and tools for precision work in polytunnels and smaller-scale operations.
- Two 9x33m polytunnels, which allow us to grow a wide variety of crops year-round, enhancing both production and crop protection.

We prioritize efficiency, innovation, and sustainability, ensuring the use of appropriate tools and techniques for each task.

Learning Opportunities

Joining our team provides the chance to gain hands-on experience in various aspects of organic horticulture, including:

- Soil preparation and improvement.
- Propagation, sowing, and planting.
- Irrigation and crop protection.
- Harvesting, packing, and direct selling at farmers' markets.
- Exposure to both field-scale and polytunnel production techniques.

This is an exceptional opportunity to learn from Dermot's decades of experience and to gain practical skills in running a successful organic farm.

Crops Grown

Our farm produces a diverse range of crops to supply farmers' markets, award-winning restaurants, and specialty food stores. These include:

- Mediterranean-inspired beans, broccoli, beetroot, and carrots.
- Garlic, kale, lettuce, and spinach.
- Root vegetables such as onions and potatoes.
- Seasonal favourites like squash, courgettes, peppers, and tomatoes.

Why Join Us?

This is an incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in organic farming under the guidance of Dermot Carey, a mentor with decades of industry experience. Whether you are an aspiring horticulturist eager to learn or an experienced grower looking to refine your skills, you will gain practical insights and invaluable expertise in a supportive yet challenging environment.

APPROXIMATE AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

Field Vegetables: 9 acres

Protected Cropping: 2 x 33m polytunnels

ACTIVITIES

- Propagation Soft Fruit Top Fruit
 Poultry Livestock
 Other: Harvesting, Deliveries, Markets

ROUTES TO MARKET

- Box Scheme Farm Shop Catering
 Market Stall Wholesale
 Other: Farmers markets, independent artisan food shops, some wholesale and high-end restaurants.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Do applicants need to have a full driving license? Yes No
Very helpful to have driving license.

Will the role involve the use of machinery? Yes No

How many hours work a week are involved and what is the payment you are offering?
Minimum wage. Hours will be discussed at interview stage.

Will weekend work be required? Yes No

Will the role involve direct sales at markets or shops? Yes No

Is accommodation on-farm an option? Yes No
There may be a room available on site for house share as an option.
There is space if someone had a camper van or caravan and wanted to use the water facilities etc. on the farm for the duration of the internship. I'm happy to discuss options. Athy is close by for shared accommodation options. There are good train and bus services in the area.

Are there volunteers on the holding? Yes No

What are the ideal start and finish dates?
April-October but flexible depending on applicants.

APPLICANT PROFILE

What are the most important attributes you are looking for?
We are looking for individuals who possess:

- **Hard Work and Adaptability:** A willingness to adapt to the dynamic nature of daily farm tasks.
- **Strong Work Ethic and Attention to Detail:** A commitment to excellence in every task undertaken.
- **Respect for Machinery:** An appreciation for the value of small-scale horticultural tools and a readiness to learn their use and care.
- **Initiative and Hunger to Learn:** A drive to absorb knowledge and gain practical skills from an experienced mentor.
- **Commitment and Understanding:** Recognition of the time, effort, and costs involved in developing skilled horticulturalists.

LOCATION



Approximate location of farm.

Situated in Athy, Co. Kildare, the farm is just 5 minutes from the M9 motorway and an hour from Dublin Airport.

Convenient transport links, including the Dublin-Waterford rail and bus routes, make it an accessible and idyllic location to work and learn.