



OGI Internship in Organic Horticulture

Host farm profile

BEECHLAWN ORGANIC FARM

Ballinasloe, Co. Galway



FARM DETAILS

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| Owner/ Manager Name | Padraig Fahy & Úna Ní Bhroin |
| Company Name | Beechlawn Organic Farm Ltd |
| Address | Beechlawn, Ballinasloe |
| Web: | www.beechlawnorganicfarm.ie |

ABOUT THE FARM

Established in 2002, we started with one acre and built the business from there. In 2023 we grew 50 acres of organic vegetables including over 40 different varieties, which we sell to shops, supermarkets, wholesalers, market traders, restaurants and veg box schemes. Our main crops are kale, leeks, cabbage, beetroot, spinach and parsnips. We also grow cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, fennel, turnip, broccoli, celeriac, scallions, salad leaves and chard.

We manage approximately 100 acres of certified organic land on three farms in Ballinasloe Co. Galway. We have 20,000 square feet of polytunnels for protected cropping and propagation of seeds. We started selling through a box scheme in 2002, moved into farmers markets and then

gradually into wholesaling, which makes up most of our sales now. We supply farmers market traders, restaurants, and box schemes.

We have certified organic status from the Irish Organic Association, Bord Bia quality assurance certification on our own vegetables, we are part of the All-Ireland Pollinator plan and Origin Green. We also have history of training successful organic horticulturalists through this programme.

We have a warm, welcoming atmosphere on the farm with committed hard-working staff. There is never a dull moment here and we move at a fast pace! We employ 20 full-time super people including a fieldwork team, packhouse team, office and sales team and delivery driver team. Our field team would include the intern who would be working on sowing seeds (we raise 400,000 of our own plants every year) planting out plants, pruning, weeding, watering, harvesting and sometimes washing and packing vegetables also.

Our farm has many aspects to it which involve different systems. There is a lot of machinery work on our farm involving tractors and various weeders, planters, bed formers, flat bed weeders, compostable film layer. We also use a forklift in our main depot. We use tractors and machinery for precision seed sowing, and some of the weeding. Doing an internship here will show you the logistical work as well as the physical work involved in large scale commercial organic horticultural production. We run a farm shop on a Saturday.

Check out our website www.beechlawnorganicfarm.ie and our Facebook & Instagram pages for photos and videos of our farm.

APPROXIMATE AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

Field Vegetables: 50 acres

Protected Cropping: 20,000 sq feet

ACTIVITIES

Propagation

Soft Fruit - small amount

Top Fruit

Poultry

Livestock

Other

ROUTES TO MARKET

Box Scheme

Farm Shop

Catering

Market Stall

Wholesale

Other: Own brand pre-pack veg for supermarkets.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Do applicants need to have a full driving license?

Yes No

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?

40 -45 hours work per week Mon-Fri. Minimum wage

Will weekend work be required?

Yes No

Once or twice during summer.

Farm shop also open on weekend, if applicant wants the experience.

Will the role involve direct sales at markets or shops?

Yes No

Yes, at Saturday Farm Shop if candidate wants to.

Is accommodation on-farm an option?

Yes No

Wooden Cabin €250 per month or room in house €300 per month.

Are there volunteers on the holding?

Yes No

What are the ideal start and finish dates?

March to end of December. Full-time work is offered at end of internship to the right candidate.

APPLICANT PROFILE

What are the most important attributes you are looking for?

Good attitude, hard-working, diligent, resilient, willing to learn, open minded, good team player, patient, understanding computers (we are introducing a new system of keeping farm records while working on a tablet device an want the apprentice to use it also).

LOCATION



Approximate location of farm.