



OGI Internship in Organic Horticulture

Host farm profile

BEECHLAWN ORGANIC FARM

Ballinasloe, Co. Galway



FARM DETAILS

Owner/ Manager Name	Padraig Fahy
Company Name	Beechlawn Organic Farm Ltd
Address	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Web:	www.beechlawnorganicfarm.ie

ABOUT THE FARM

Beechlawn Organic Farm is a business-like farm, producing over 150 tons of certified organic vegetables in East Galway. We manage 66 acres and grow 35 acres of field scale vegetables, as well as green manure, and have 2000 square metres of polytunnels. We grow 20 different main crops including kale, cabbage, leeks, beetroot, swede, salad leaves for wholesale only. 90% of our seedlings are grown off farm by another company.

We have mechanised production with state-of-the-art GPS tractor systems, precision seed sower, plug and bare root leek planters, flatbed weeders and tillers. We have 20 full-time helpful and friendly staff working here from a diverse mix of nationalities. We meet together

every day at tea break. The days are long; the work is hard and sometimes very wet weather in the field. The rewards are big however, and so is the enjoyment if you have the right attitude.

Our staff consists of field workers, packhouse staff, delivery drivers, office and management. We have targets and minimum work speeds necessary to get the work done. We welcome interns who have knowledge, experience and are willing to learn, especially people who see a future for themselves in horticulture as well as team players with a can-do attitude. We also buy from other organic growers in Ireland and abroad to supply our many wholesale customers in the food service industry, supermarkets, market traders and box schemes.

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

ETHOS

Mission Statement: Beechlawn Organic Farm produces the best organic vegetables in Ireland, grown by our team in a sustainable way. We are happy in our work, we feel good about what we do.

FARM SIZE

Total	80 acres
Field crops	30 acres
Protected crops	2000sq m

PRODUCE

Leeks, kale, cabbage, carrots, parsnip, swede, scallions, lettuce, salad leaves, beetroot, celery, onions, cucumber, cherry tomatoes.

ACTIVITIES

☒ Propagation - squash, cucumber, uncle Johns Kale only (90% of plant production is done by another company for us.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soft Fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> Top Fruit | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

ROUTES TO MARKET

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Catering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market Stall | | |

☒ Wholesale - via delivery van or transport company. DPD boxes and pallets of veg are sent to customers

☒ Other: Own brand pre-pack veg for supermarkets.

TEAM

Current team size
20

Are there volunteers on the holding?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Yes- Horticulture work placement students only

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Do applicants need to have a full driving license?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Will the role involve the use of machinery?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Yes, tractor and van driving is essential for our intern. A basic knowledge of machinery is required and full driving license.

How many hours work a week are involved and what is the payment you are offering?

40-45 hours. Starting 7.30 finishing 5pm/6pm Monday to Friday. Rate: Minimum wage. Late finishes during good weather. We try to give time off in lieu of late evenings i.e. half day Friday or half day on a wet day. Occasional Saturday work if weather is wet all week and there is no other window to plant/sow/till the soil.

Will weekend work be required?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Only during times of extreme weather like heavy rain all week and no dry day to plant until Saturday. Possible twice in summer season.

Will the role involve direct sales at markets or shops?

☐ Yes ☒ No

No. Once during the internship the intern may travel the delivery route with driver and visit the shops/ wholesalers if they wish. Intern has a chance to visit one trade show during internship if they wish.

Is accommodation on-farm an option?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Yes, we have a wooden cabin with bedroom and mobile home on the farm. Other options are available locally in rented accommodation.

What are the ideal start and finish dates?

Early March to end of December.

APPLICANT PROFILE

What are the most important attributes you are looking for?

Confident team player, ability to take initiative and responsible for work done, helpful open mind, can do attitude, good listener, attention to detail, physical strength, ability to work at speed. We have people of all nationalities working here so we must respect all cultures and people. Respect for the environment also a requirement.

OTHER INFORMATION

As we do not have the staff or capacity to micro manage our interns all of the time, we need an independent thinker who is a problem solver and yet doesn't take risks with safety or the safety

of others. Harvest/work targets can seem to be impossibly high at times, so we also need someone who isn't a worrier! One job at a time and we sometimes do actually meet those targets! We usually have French work placement students who are good company and great workers so they will be working with our intern and they will learn together.

LOCATION



Approximate location of farm.