

Dear Ignatius Farm CSA Supporter,

As the fall moves towards winter the CSA is saying goodbye to another set of farming interns. Those that leave at the end of November have been with us for seven months and have worked long, hard hours during that time.

This year we had five interns, two men, three women, coming from a variety of backgrounds and interests– with experience in outdoor education, wilderness training, green construction, baking, tree planting, dairy farming, and travel across Canada and internationally. Previous areas of study for this season’s interns included art, biology, ecology, teaching, agriculture and women’s studies. One is moving on to teaching, another is continuing their studies at the University of Guelph in the Organic Agriculture program, one is heading to the Southern Hemisphere to be able to farm through the winter, and two interns are interested in returning to work with us, so we are looking to secure some funding to provide them more than the novice intern stipend.

As Robert Cordy looks to farming in his future, he has encapsulated his learning curve and growth this season at the farm:

I feel truly blessed to be an intern here at Ignatius Farm CSA. This season has changed my outlook on life and has reconnected me with the earth in many ways. I knew from a very young age that I wanted to make a difference in the world around me. I have always had a passion for learning about nature and working with people. I was able to do both here at Ignatius.

When I started this internship I didn’t know what to expect. I knew that I would be learning about organic agriculture. I knew that eating local organic food was becoming more and more popular with Canadians. I wanted to get involved but I wasn’t quite sure where I would fit in. Through the internship I was introduced to likeminded people and diverse farms which are all making a difference in their communities. My time spent at Ignatius was beneficial to obtaining my goals. The program was a hands-on learning experience which taught me the hard skills as well as the soft skills I will need to run a successful farm. The focus of the internship was to educate us on all the issues surrounding the food industry and create options for us to progress with our farming careers. There was never a dull moment here at the farm. Whether we were in the field transplanting broccoli or on a field trip learning about seed saving - we were discovering the countless aspects of farming and finding our place in the world of organic agriculture.



Robert, centre, delighting in the first harvest of salad mix, surrounded by our team assessing the crop of greens.

I feel that I have found my vocation. I have been inspired by Heather, Don and Carl, and by all of the CRAFT farms we visited to continue farming. Once this internship ends I will be furthering my education by visiting farms in the southern hemisphere. I will be volunteering on a Biodynamic winery in New Zealand and a permaculture farm in Australia. I would like to thank Ignatius Farm CSA for the wonderful experience. I would also like to thank all of our CSA members for being a part of this community. You have made it possible for me and other interns to learn about organic agriculture and pursue our dreams!

God bless,

Robert JL Cordy

Robert and his fellow interns rose to the challenge of what I affectionately call our 7-month Outward Bound-style gardening adventure. Interns work together with the CSA Farmers in a tight team to accomplish goals and tasks which the interns may have little or no experience with. They learn about their personal growing edges and strengths within a structured context that fosters their development and growth. They discover the intensive demands of farming and thrive on the discovery of new crops, cooking for each other with healthy foods, and developing their farming skills. From mentored field walks to one-on-one tractor training, field trips and workshops tailored to their learning objectives, and working alongside the CSA Farmers, we are intentional about our intern education in organic agriculture.

We think that we offer one of the best organic agriculture internships in the country, so please consider donating to assist funding our intern education program.

http://www.ignatiusguelph.ca/csa/csa_giving.html

Ignatius Farm CSA Team

To unsubscribe from our Ignatius Farm CSA Supporters list, please send an email to csamarket@ignatiusguelph.ca with 'Unsubscribe CSA Supporters' in the subject line.

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