



FARM CREDIT WORKSHARE PROGRAM 2020 URBAN FARM WORKER

Crabtree Farms offers the WorkShare Program to allow individuals to “pay” for the cost of Crabtree Farms produce by working on the farm. Essentially, you can work on the Urban Farm to subsidize the cost of your fresh produce. This is a wonderful way to offset the financial cost of produce while gaining experience and knowledge by volunteering for food. This is an attractive option for people who are interested in learning many aspects of sustainable agriculture. WorkShare opportunities are limited, physically strenuous, and require a working interview before consideration.

How UF WorkShare Discounts produce fees

Each week, you will work 3 or 6 hours. In order to enroll in the program, you must apply, schedule a working interview, and be accepted into the program. Once accepted, Urban Farm (UF) WorkShares must begin work in May and continue through the first week of October. Additionally, WorkShares are required to work at least one shift of the Fall Plant Sale.

How you earn farm credit for produce

- Each hour worked during a scheduled Workshare shift earns the Workshare \$4 of farm credit.
- Credits will be tallied and applied at the beginning of the following month.
- Farm credits may be used to purchase products at the farmers market, farm store & plant sales.
- Farm credit cannot be used to purchase consignment goods such as honey, worm castings, Christmas trees, etc. nor to purchase tickets to fundraising events such as the 100 Dinner.

Tracking your UF WorkShare Hours

To track your hours, please sign-in and sign-out each visit. In the barn is a volunteer notebook with a special section for WorkShare volunteers. You will have your own page to log your hours. We calculate your volunteered hours regularly.

Scheduling your UF WorkShare Hours

The WorkShare program is a unique, privileged and limited form of volunteerism. You must first try-out by scheduling a “working interview” with the Urban Farm staff. Acceptance into the program is based on many factors, but two important ones are demonstrated work ethic and availability. Call or email for more information.

Once accepted, before you begin the program, please schedule a volunteer orientation with Melissa Astin so you will understand what is expected of you. Only hours completed in the UF WorkShare season count towards your WorkShare farm credit.

After being accepted into the program and attending the orientation, you will be scheduled a regular, weekly day and time to WorkShare, based on the availability you provided. Think of it as us hiring you as a farm hand and paying you in vegetables. As such we require a consistent commitment set for a certain day of the week (i.e. every Monday from 8:30-2). Volunteers work alongside staff as farm hands. We must prepare based upon how many workers we have; therefore, randomly showing up to WorkShare is not acceptable. We are not inflexible, however, and work with individuals to adjust for illness, family, vacation, etc.

For initial consideration, please contact Melissa Astin (423-493-9155 ext. 10 / mastin@crabtreefarms.org).

UF WorkShare Terms and Conditions

- WorkShare participants qualify as volunteers at Crabtree Farms and must attend a volunteer orientation before working.
- Persons 16 years and older may qualify for the WorkShare program.
- Please do not bring small children or pets to the farm when you are volunteering for WorkShare, unless they are supervised by another person.
- The WorkShare arrangement can be terminated at any time, by either the volunteer or Crabtree Farms, if the arrangement isn't working out.
- Individuals interested in the WorkShare program must complete a "working interview." To schedule this, contact Melissa (see above contact information).
- You cannot fulfill your commitment early without prior permission.