

Akesi Farms

Akesi Farms, a 53-acre permaculture farm, is in the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The closest town with services is Sundre, Alberta – approximately 25 km away.

Akesi Farms was purchased in the fall of 2014 by Meghan Vesey and Kwesi Haizel. The farm has been evolving over time with various construction and garden projects. You can follow the farm progress at www.akesifarms.com

We are searching for a person or couple (two people who can share a mobile home) to help on the farm with a variety of tasks. We have a mobile home for rent on the property and are looking for approx. 10 hours/week of help around the farm.

You would have to have employment off the farm or there are some possibilities to start your own business using the farm infrastructure.

Background

Kwesi is disabled and his disease will continue to progress over time. Kwesi can currently walk with a walker and does many tasks around the farm, but we know he is able to do less over time.

Meghan works full time at an IT job and runs Fungi Akafo with her business partner to bring in extra income.

Basics

Mobile home rent: \$1,300/month plus utilities (gas/electricity/internet)

- Includes approx. 1 acre of land around the home
- Private driveway
- Access to all the walking paths on the farm

Farm tasks: \$20/hour for 40 hours/month (this is negotiable and can change over time)

Priority Tasks:

- Care for chickens (feed/water/open and close/collect eggs)
- Care for geese (feed/water/open and close)
- Care for dogs (feed/water/walk/brush)
- Drive to Sundre/surrounding area for various errands (such as picking up feed, taking waste to the transfer station, dropping off packages at the post office or picking up items from Home Hardware)
- Plow snow on driveway in winter
- Plan/prepare lunch and dinner 2 days/week (clean kitchen after meal preparation)

Other tasks *could* include (depending on interest/skills):

- Care for bees (feed/inspect/harvest)
- Care for cat (feed/water)

- Various construction and maintenance tasks
- Help maintain the water capture systems on the farm
- Help plant/weed/water/harvest/plan the kitchen garden (currently 52 raised beds of 4' x 8')
- Help plant/weed/water/harvest/plan the main greenhouse
- Help clean/harvest/maintain the mushroom greenhouse
- Help preserve food for winter (canning, drying, freezing, etc.)
- Keep the farm clean and tidy
- Drive Kwesi to appointments in Calgary when necessary (we usually know ahead of time and can plan who is available and make the trip to Calgary worthwhile)
- Mow lawn in summer (usually bi-weekly)
- Work with Meghan on making spawn for Fungi Akafo and preparing packages for shipping
- Ensure to-do list is kept up to date
- Attend weekly planning meetings (time/day flexible)
- Other farm projects that are not on this list
- If interested, help research new projects for Akesi Farms

Requirements

- **10 hours of work/week**
- Valid Drivers' license
- Own vehicle (4x4 recommended, winter is long!)
- Physically fit and able to lift heavy items
- Positive outlook and be willing to participate in a variety of farm projects
- Legally able to work in Canada
- No smoking

Compensation

- Hourly wage of \$20/hour (CPP, EI, etc will be added)
- Opportunity to build your own farming business if your plan/use of resources are in line with organic and permaculture principals
- Animals/pets negotiable

Our Challenges

Meals

One of our biggest struggles on the farm is food preparation. Currently, Kwesi does all the meals. (Meghan's mom often brings a big pot of soup on the weekends as well).

The consequence of that is Kwesi does not spend enough time outside or getting other jobs done as it takes him a long time to manage these tasks. At some point soon, he will no longer be able to prepare food.

Ideally, we would have help preparing food (lunch/dinner) for part of the week (2 days per week). We are happy with simple food and leftovers. Meals can also be prepared for the freezer and eaten later.

Other food/meal thoughts

- We eat as many vegetables and items from the farm/gardens as possible. We have our own eggs and chicken in the freezer
- We do eat meat but not every day. All our meat comes from neighbours in our area. We try to buy larger amounts to store in our freezers
- We do not eat seafood/fish (this is for ethical reasons)
- We have no allergies
- We do not often buy canned or prepared foods from the grocery store
- We try to buy organic produce as much as possible to supplement what we don't have from the garden
- We try to reduce waste. We avoid food items that come in packaging when possible and use items like beeswax covers instead of plastic wrap for storage
- We have a nicely setup kitchen with many appliances (at least we think so!) We also have two big deep freezers and a giant root cellar that acts as a fridge
- We are not picky eaters. Kwesi does enjoy his spicy food. We both say we like things to be "tasty", so we are not afraid of spice and a variety of flavours!

Other notes

We will do a trial period of one month (negotiable). We wish people to be happy living at Akesi Farms and will strive to either make that happen or choose to end our agreement.

Meghan works full time at an IT job. Meghan works from home Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm and is on call (currently) one week out of three. Meghan is not available for questions/help during these time periods.

Meghan works on her own company, Fungi Akafo evenings and weekends.

Meghan's parents, Bob and Maurita Vesey often visit the farm and may stay overnight. Bob and Maurita help with various farm projects.

Kwesi has a tool shop that is heated and setup with many tools. We are ok with others using these tools as long as the tool shop is kept tidy, and the tools put away and maintained.

Things break and mistakes are made all the time at the farm. We ask that all of us be honest with any problems or mistakes made or items broken. Our priority is safety first!

Closing thoughts

We aim to find the best way to work together so that everyone enjoys and thrives at Akesi Farms. We aim to be open and honest.

Contact Information

Meghan/Kwesi | info@akesifarms.com