AislingQuoy Internships

About Us

AislingQuoy means field of dreams and this is our dream and our passion. Lyndal mostly runs the farm and Steve has an off-farm job and then does another days work when he gets home. We enjoy having other people around who share our enthusiasm for smallholding and stewardship of the land. We are also passionate about helping you gain experiences and skills that will enable you to follow your farming dreams.

Dairy Intern Role

You will be responsible for the daily running of the dairy including preparing feeds, twice daily milking (by machine and hand), paperwork and lots of cleaning. You will also participate in other farm activities as for the general intern below. You will be doing a lot of heavy lifting, repetitive hand activities (milking) and cleaning and must be prepared for this. You must be prepared for early morning starts and working into the evening.

If you are interested in cheese making you must be comfortable learning the technical aspects of cheese making, including some chemistry. Must be very meticulous, and detail oriented. Cleanliness is key. Making cheese is fun and rewarding and also requires long hours on your feet washing dishes and caring for the aging cheese.

Farm to Table Intern Role

You will be involved in the whole process of producing food and all its associated activities. This includes feeding and managing chickens, ducks, pigs, sheep and goats, weeding, planting, irrigating, transplanting, harvesting, greenhouse work, cooking and preserving, taking care of animals, hoof trimming, mucking out, butchering and occasional construction projects, fencing or other special projects. You will assist the dairy intern or Lyndal with daily cleaning and other chores related to the dairy. You may also have the opportunity to participate in milking if you are enthusiastic. You should gain knowledge and skills in holistic animal management, pasture and nutrition, many horticulture skills (eg pruning, propogating, seedsaving, grafting) and approaches, practical permaculture, water and resource management, building and design.

Interns live and work on the farm, experiencing many facets of our diverse activities. AislingQuoy internships are full-time, intensive experiences requiring fifty to sixty hours a week, sometimes more. One of the joys as well as the challenges of farming is living and working with the rhythm of the seasons, and the work schedule follows the demands of season, weather, and animal needs. Enthusiasm and a sincere commitment to sustainable agriculture and food production are more important than experience, though experience with animals and dairy is a plus. You need to be self motivated, hard working, able to attend to detail and keep sight of the big picture. We work long hard days but always try to take moments to pause and appreciate what a beautiful place we live and how privileged we are to live this amazing life.

AislingQuoy is 10km from the nearest small town and there is no bus service or other public transport. If you do not have your own vehicle you will be very limited in access to café’s and other social opportunities so you must be comfortable with limited socialising. You need to enjoy the outdoors, peace and quiet while you work (except the goats talking to you!), and your own company. The living arrangements mean that you will be living and working closely with us so you also need to be good at sharing your space, and easy to get along with. Absolutely no smokers.

Please answer the following to the best of your ability.

When would you like to start work and how long would you like to stay?

Are you in New Zealand or have plans to travel here already and what type of visa do/will you have?

Have you ever had experience working on a farm? Please describe.

Have you had any experience in dairy’s or making cheese? Please describe.

Do you have a current drivers license? Have you had any vehicle accidents or violations in the past 5 years? Do you own a vehicle?

Please list any other skills you have which might be applicable to this role including experience with animal care, gardening, horticulture, building, cooking.

This job requires you to lift items weighing more than 25kg/60 lbs and work long, physical days. Do you have any conditions that may impede your ability to complete these tasks? Will you cope with working in these conditions?

Please describe why you would like to work at AislingQuoy and what kinds of things you would expect from your experience.

Please describe your other interests.

What are your 5 favourite vegetables to grow and eat?

What are your favourite cheeses and how do you like to eat them?

Are you a smoker?

What is your age?

Thanks for your application! We will contact you if we think you will be a good fit!