

# Imani Farm at Earthaven Ecovillage

## Internship through Work Trade

With Imani Farm, SOIL, and Lee Warren

*Start Date: April 15-May 1, 2013*

*End Date: July 15-October 15, 2013*

Thank you for your interest in us. We've tried to spell out the details of this opportunity clearly here so that you'll know what you're applying for. Please be sure to read this letter thoroughly and make sure this position is a fit for you before applying.

### POSITION

We're looking for a mature and dedicated person to make a three to six month commitment to living, learning, and serving at our farm, neighborhood, and ecovillage.

### ABOUT US

Imani Farm is a farm project adjacent to Village Terraces Cohousing Neighborhood within Earthaven Ecovillage. A beautiful 4+ acre area above and below our neighborhood was chiseled from the surrounding forest and slowly turned from degraded forest ecosystem to a fertile, small-scale, pasture-based farm with dairy cows and laying hens as well as plentiful orchards and annual crop production during the growing season.

Imani Farm: We are a group of farmers and communitarians living in the Western NC mountains, trying to change culture and our own lives through radical responsibility, organic and regenerative food production, and right relationship to work, health, and each other.

Village Terraces: We all live at Village Terraces Cohousing Neighborhood the most developed and populated neighborhood at our Ecovillage with eight adult members, children, and other residents.

SOIL: The School of Integrated Living (SOIL) is an educational organization run by Lee Warren & NikiAnne Feinburg, two Earthaven folks. The school is "whole-life" and experiential approach to education, through it's Farm & Ecovillage Immersion programs.

Earthaven Ecovillage: Earthaven is an intentional community dedicated to caring for people and the Earth by learning, living and demonstrating holistic, sustainable culture. On 329 mostly forested acres, Earthaven supports 50+ full members, and a steady stream of exploring members, students, and visitors. Earthaven is located about 50 minutes southeast of Asheville, on curvy mountain roads.

### MORE ABOUT US

We highly recommend reading up about us on these website

<http://www.earthaven.org/>

<http://www.earthaven.org/earthavens-neighborhoods/village-terraces/>

<http://www.earthaven.org/farms-and-gardens/imani-farm/>

<http://www.schoolofintegratedliving.org>

## **ABOUT YOU**

To start, these are some of the attitudes and values that are important. Not everyone possesses all of these, for sure. We all have strengths and weaknesses, but in general, make sure this list makes sense and that you possess some of each of these characteristics.

- Communication skills
- Emotional literacy and maturity
- A willingness to live in community and be part of a team
- Cooperation skills
- Some experience with gardening/farming/natural world
- Some experience with physical work
- Interest in cooking and food
- Comfort with raising animals for food (including comfort with slaughtering and butchering)
- Self-motivated
- Organized and detail oriented
- Committed to a low-impact lifestyle (reducing, reusing, and recycling)
- Creative and flexible
- Dedicated to supporting local economy when buying (even though it costs more)

## **ABOUT THE EXCHANGE**

Our current position is: Internship through Work Trade Position with Imani Farm, SOIL, and Lee Warren. There is no formal educational component to this position, although by doing, you will learn a ton.

### **Hours You Will Provide**

28 hours of labor per week in the following ways:

1. Imani Farm – You will provide farm support in the form of milking, pasture rotation, feeding chores, feed acquisition, weeding, orcharding, etc. You will be trained thoroughly in each of these jobs and can work your way into more coordination if that suits your personality and vision for yourself.
2. SOIL – Our upcoming Fall program needs marketing and administrative support in the form of online marketing, social media, postering, etc.
3. Lee Warren Personal Assistance – You will be providing general homestead, kitchen, domestic, garden, and administrative support to Lee for 1/3 of your hours.

### **What We Will Provide**

- **HOSTS:** We will be your hosts at Earthaven, which allows you the opportunity to be an ecovillage resident and supporting member for the length of your exchange. This gives you access to most Earthaven meetings and events, all of Earthaven's social events, and most of our 329 acres of land.
- **LEARNING:** The opportunity to learn about homestead farming and cooperative neighborhood living in a grounded, practical, and socially intimate context as well as the opportunity to help forge a saner culture.
- **HOUSING:** Housing in the form of an outdoor covered porch room complete with all furniture (bed, shelves, table, light) and mosquito netting. The room is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our hand-built beautiful timber-frame home.

- **COMMON KITCHEN:** Access to a large, shared, common kitchen (700 square feet with industrial stove, fridge space, and all the accessories).
- **COMMON AREAS:** Access to a shared common bathroom and common office and den space.
- **FACILITIES:** Neighborhood common facilities and systems (heat, electric, water, grounds, etc). with all fees and maintenance covered.
- **FEES:** Earthaven fees of \$30 per month plus a one-time administrative fee of \$25. If you bring a car to Earthaven, you will be responsible for the Earthaven vehicle fee, which is \$15 per month.
- **FOOD:** Food Credit (for milk/eggs) through Imani Farm of \$60 per month.
- **FOOD STIPEND:** Food Stipend of \$200 per month to be used to purchase food on your own or participate in another Earthaven group kitchen.

## You Will Provide

### **Your Earthaven Community Service Requirement**

As a resident of Earthaven you are required to do four hours (or Leaps, which is the internal currency) per week for the community. We are including some leaps into the second six months of your exchange but you are entirely responsible for the total leaps you owe as well as compiling and submitting them. Leaps can be obtained by working directly on Earthaven projects or by working for individuals who pay you in Leaps.

### **Telephone and Internet**

Cell phones do not work at Earthaven. You'll need to make your own arrangements for telephone (it might be possible to share a phone line with someone in our neighborhood, otherwise you can travel to the top of a nearby hill to use your cell phone). High Speed Internet is currently available in the Earthaven Council Hall, and you may be able to share access with someone at Village Terraces.

### **Additional Food**

To supplement your food credit, you may need to provide some of your own specialty foods or beverages.

### **In Person Interview**

We've learned over time that chemistry is crucial. We'll only consider applicants who are willing to visit our home and farm for a minimum two-day period. Plan to camp (there may be indoor lodging available, please ask if you need that) and to bring your own food. Plan to meet with us, eat with us, work with us, and get to know us. Only then will we both know if the fit seems right.

## **Bringing Some Savings**

We suggest that you come with some extra money for personal expenses, such as food, gas, car insurance, toiletries, or medical expenses. You will also want to have some spending money for events at Earthaven such as special dinners, concerts, dances, etc.

## **Daily Life at Earthaven**

Earthaven Ecovillage has a complex social, economic and political environment. You will receive a comprehensive orientation as well as a handbook. Please read the handbook and questions in order to get oriented towards the culture here. Expect that deeper understanding will happen over a period of time.

Staying at Earthaven is an adventure! Earthaven is off-the-grid and derives its electricity from solar panels and a small hydropower station. Please be prepared to conserve energy and resources while you are staying with us. Some noticeable differences to prepare for include: no outdoor lighting at night, restricted electricity use in general, dense sharing, and no porcelain toilets. Our drinking water comes from fresh springs or wells on the land and is not treated with chlorine. We do have filtered water available and encourage you to bring your own water bottle to carry with you at all times. People at Earthaven usually follow the pattern of the sun - early to bed early to rise - so we ask you to respect the quiet in the evening. Enjoy the symphony of the frogs and the crickets!

### **Managing Expectations on Your End**

Please don't come with an expectation that this is the "simple-life." Yes we are close to nature because we work outside almost every day. This translates to hard work, sometimes extreme weather, and need for physical strength. You might do repetitive work for a while although mostly days are varied. Taking responsibility for our lives requires more work than most of us "suburban refugees" are used to. You will get in shape. You probably won't lounge in the hammock all that much.

### **Toilets and Showers**

One of the most noticeable differences about life at Earthaven is our composting toilets. We believe strongly in returning our fertilizer to the Earth and for this reason, there are a number of outhouses for public use. You are encouraged to pee anywhere outdoors (except near creeks, springs, trails, and paths) and to poop in the toilets. We use our completed composted "humanure" to fertilize our gardens and orchards. Our outhouses generally do not smell due to our process of separating the pee from the poop. Please see the humanure handbook online at: [humanurehandbook.com/videos.html](http://humanurehandbook.com/videos.html). Please be sure to watch at least a few of these videos. We'll be asking you about this in the interview. It's very important that you're comfortable with this aspect of our lives.

### **Pets, Animals, Food Choices, & Wildlife**

- Earthaven has a strict pet policy and we ask that you do not bring pets here under any circumstances.
- Vegetarianism is comfortable and natural to many in an "alternative" lifestyle. Some here at Earthaven have chosen this path and others have chosen eating meat as part of a deeply nourishing food program. In fact a majority of people here eat meat. You will no doubt share a kitchen with meat eaters. If this concerns you, please let us know.
- Earthaven is also home to a diverse mix of flora and fauna; there are many poisonous plants and snakes and we ask that you respect our biodiversity. If you are extremely allergic to poison ivy, bee stings, or snakes, we ask that you come prepared.

### **What to Bring**

There will be a bed, dressers, a desk, and electricity in your personal space. Also our common facilities are well equipped. Heat is mostly consistent although you'll want to bring warm sleeping gear.

- Warm Blankets or Sleeping Bag
- Calendar/Personal Datebook
- Alarm clock (battery-powered)
- Slip on Shoes (most indoor spaces at Earthaven require shoelessness)
- Rain Gear
- Work Shoes/Boots
- Flashlights and batteries (LED lights are more efficient)
- Water bottle
- Natural Insect Repellent or long sleeves and long pants that protect your skin from biting insects

### **Next Steps**

1. Read this letter thoroughly (and reread if necessary) and check out our information online.
2. Fill out the application form and send it back to us by email - [imani@earthaven.org](mailto:imani@earthaven.org)
3. Send us a Photo and a resume (if you have one) with your returned application form.
4. We will be in touch within two weeks.

**If you have any questions about the work exchange position, please email us.  
We look forward to hearing from you!**

Lee Warren ([leewarren@earthaven.org](mailto:leewarren@earthaven.org))

Village Terraces Co-Founder & Co-Owner, SOIL Program Co-Founder & Co-Director & Imani Farm Co-Founder & Manager