

Internship Description

Work Site Name	Department/Position
Berry Patch Farms	Farm Operations / Farm & Applied Agriculture Intern

Brief Overview of Internship

Berry Patch Farms offers a hands-on agricultural internship for students interested in farming, horticulture, plant science, soil health, sustainability, agricultural systems, and related careers.

Interns will participate in active farm operations while learning how crops and agricultural systems are planned, established, maintained, monitored, and improved throughout the growing season.

A major component of the internship will be participation in applied agricultural projects at Berry Patch Farms, including preparing, establishing, maintaining, and evaluating different strawberry growing systems.

Students will work individually and collaboratively under farm supervision. Activities will combine practical farm work, observation, problem-solving, data collection, documentation, and project-based learning.

Interns will maintain records of their work and learning throughout the internship and may contribute to a final project summary, portfolio, presentation, or other work-based-learning deliverable.

Internship Tasks/Projects

Intern responsibilities will vary according to weather, crop conditions, seasonal farm needs, and current agricultural projects. Students may participate in projects involving:

- Crop establishment and monitoring
- Strawberry production systems
- Irrigation and water conservation
- Mulching systems
- Weed management
- Agricultural sustainability
- Farm infrastructure
- Season-extension techniques
- Soil health
- Compost use
- Crop-production experiments and demonstrations

Projects may change throughout the internship as agricultural conditions and farm priorities change.

Internship Learning Goals (new skills/knowledge the intern will acquire)
By the completion of the internship, students should be able to: • Explain basic principles of crop establishment and plant production. • Demonstrate appropriate techniques for preparing, planting, maintaining, and monitoring agricultural growing systems. • Explain how soil, water, weather, pests, nutrients, and farm-management decisions can affect crop performance. • Safely perform common agricultural tasks using appropriate tools, PPE, and work procedures. • Follow written and verbal instructions and established farm procedures. • Collect and document agricultural observations and measurements accurately. • Explain the basic purpose of an agricultural trial or comparison. • Explain why consistent procedures, measurements, and accurate records are important when comparing agricultural systems. • Identify differences in plant performance and discuss reasonable explanations for those differences. • Work effectively both independently and as part of a farm team. • Demonstrate reliability, communication, time management, problem solving, and workplace-readiness skills. • Maintain organized records of internship activities, observations, and project work. • Communicate what they learned through a project summary, portfolio, presentation, or other approved work-based-learning deliverable.

Internship Site Address and Primary Contact Information
Tim and Claudia Ferrell 13785 Potomac St, Brighton, CO 80601 Cell: 303-596-1073

Internship Hours Start/End Times

Primary Internship Days:

Mondays: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturdays: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Interns may work Mondays, Saturdays, or a combination of both, depending on availability and program requirements.

Additional Internship Hours:

Tuesday through Friday, interns may complete internship hours during approved free periods in their school schedule or between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

Half-day shifts are permitted on Mondays and Saturdays (for example, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM or 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM).

Interns must discuss and have all internship schedules, including free-period and evening hours, approved in advance by the internship supervisor and, when required, the WBL coordinator.

Once established, interns are expected to maintain a consistent weekly schedule and commit to the agreed-upon days and times so that supervision, project activities, and student learning objectives can be planned appropriately.

Physical requirements

Interns should be prepared for active agricultural work that may include:

- Standing and walking for extended periods.
- Walking on soil, grass, gravel, mud, and uneven farm surfaces.
- Bending, kneeling, reaching, and squatting.
- Repetitive tasks associated with planting, weeding, harvesting, and crop maintenance.
- Carrying and moving light to moderately weighted agricultural materials as appropriate for the student's assigned work and applicable youth-employment restrictions.
- Working indoors and outdoors.
- Working during changing Colorado weather conditions, including sun, heat, cold, wind, and occasional wet or muddy conditions.
- Working around soil, compost, plants, insects, worms, mulch, crop residues, and other organic agricultural materials.
- Following all safety procedures, PPE requirements, equipment restrictions, and supervisor instructions.

Dress Code

- Closed-toe shoes are required.
- Clothing must be appropriate for outdoor agricultural work.
- Students should arrive prepared for changing Colorado weather conditions.
- Layered clothing is recommended during colder weather.
- Weather-resistant outerwear may be necessary during cold, wet, snowy, or windy conditions.
- Long pants may be required for certain farm activities.
- Sun protection is recommended during outdoor work.
- Gloves and other personal protective equipment will be used when required for specific activities.
- Loose clothing, jewelry, footwear, or other items that could create a safety hazard around tools or equipment are not permitted during affected activities.

Occupational/Educational Requirements (skills, certifications needed)

No previous farming experience is required. Preferred qualifications include:

- Interest in agriculture, sustainability, biology, environmental science, soil science, plant science, agricultural technology, or related fields.
- Willingness to learn new agricultural and research methods and follow instructions.
- Ability to observe carefully, take measurements, and maintain accurate records.

- Basic ability to work with numbers and enter information into written or electronic records.
- Ability to communicate questions, observations, and concerns with the internship supervisor.
- Ability to work both independently on assigned activities and collaboratively with others.
- Reliability and ability to maintain the agreed-upon internship schedule.
- No prior agricultural experience or professional certifications are required. Training for assigned internship activities will be provided.

Age/Grade Level of Intern
● Must be at least 16 years old ● High School CTE / Work-Based Learning students