



# Ferme Germain Desmarais

## Employment guide

### About us

We are a small family farm situated in central Quebec. We produce a large variety of fruits and vegetables. While we are not certified organic, we do our best to reduce our use of chemicals and believe strongly in responsible farming. You can learn more about us and our history at:

<https://www.fermedesmarais.ca/en/farm>

### Working conditions

Summers in Quebec are often warm and humid, with a humidex temperature that can vary from 20°C up to 45°C during the day. You must be able to tolerate working long hours under the sun. In order to reduce the time spent in the heat, we try to start as early as possible, so work usually begins at dawn. Since we are at the mercy of Mother Nature, there are times when we may have to work under the rain. These are the conditions you will be expected to endure.

### Tasks

The main tasks are done standing or kneeling and primarily consist of weeding and harvesting. Harvesting generally include sorting and cleaning the crop afterwards. Over the summer, we may have small construction projects such as building signs or fences. Weeding a field by hand can often be quite monotonous and can take multiple days to finish. While we often complete other tasks in between, it is not rare to spend half a day weeding a field, potentially kneeling the whole time. When working, we prioritize doing the job right over rushing, while attempting to balance one's speed and output. We may ask you to participate at the public market as a salesperson if you feel comfortable doing so.

### Schedule

There is no fixed schedule. Tasks are usually determined the night before but priorities can change during the day. Days off must be discussed in advance. We usually schedule a day off every week. You will be expected to be available any day of the week and weekend.

### Lodging and food

We have a fully equipped recreational vehicle available and a room within a house. For those thinking to subscribe as woofers, know that breakfast and dinners are usually light, often including fruits and vegetables that we produce, while suppers tend to be heartier meals. We are not vegetarians but have no problems offering accommodations.

## Working on the farm

### Pros

Spending time in nature, getting to eat the fruits of one's labour, knowing the process behind the fruits and vegetables, 100% hands-on task, flexible work schedule, often work alone in a calm environment (for those that enjoy tranquility)

### Cons

Must get up early, must be ready to work under heat and rain, must be able to tolerate long monotonous repetitive tasks, must be able to work alone during long hours when necessary

## Sample schedules

### Scenario 1

5:30 → get up and eat breakfast  
 6:00 → start picking blueberries, may be asked to help sort them  
 12:00 → lunch  
 1:00 → sort blueberries  
 3:00 → work done for the day

### Scenario 2

6:00 → get up and eat breakfast  
 7:00 → pick and clean beets  
 9:00 → weed strawberries  
 12:15 → lunch and longer break due to heat  
 2:00 → weed strawberries  
 3:30 → harvest tomatoes  
 5:00 → clean tomatoes  
 5:45 → work done for the day

## Activities for lodged workers

Walking and cycling are the main activities that can be done close by. The farm is situated next to the Amerindian reserve of Odanak. If you have access to a car there is a couple of fishing areas close by and you may also engage in kayaking or canoeing. For foreign workers, it is possible to rent a car or find a good bargain for a second-hand one if you plan to stay for an extended period of time. On bicycle, it takes 15 minutes to reach the village and 5 minutes by car. By car you are about 40 minutes away from three cities (Sorel-Tracy, Trois-Rivières, Drummondville). The metropolis, Montreal, is about 1 hour and a half from the farm.

**Thank you for showing an interest in working with us,  
 we hope to see your application soon!**

You may send your application by email or phone us at 450-568-5200.

You may also complete our application form at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/yVyq2YZmvU7mjDle2>