

MUSK OX INTERNSHIP 2024

The Musk Ox Development Corporation, d.b.a. the Musk Ox Farm, seeks summer interns for the 2024 summer season. The Musk Ox Farm is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that promotes gentle musk ox husbandry, qiviut production, and education to the public.

The Musk Ox Farm is searching for upbeat individuals willing to work hard and learn about this arctic ambassador at the world's only facility of this type. Applicants must be patient and do well under stressful situations. This is a physically demanding job, with lots of walking and time on your feet daily in varying Alaskan weather conditions. Weather can vary significantly throughout the year, from -30°F in January to summer temperatures as high as 90°F. Summertime temperatures are typically in the 40°F-70°F range. Applicants will work directly under the herd manager's supervision, both individually and as part of a team.

We currently care for 76 musk oxen on 75 acres of land. We promote gentle handling, which requires patience, confidence, and compassion. Weekly weighings and trips to the barn for care and combing are accomplished by herding musk oxen on foot. For this, we seek individuals who will be confident but not aggressive when working with our herd. You will learn to work with musk oxen and see that each has its own personality, which will help you to understand how different animals respond to different stimuli. Herd health is our main priority. You will be learning basic husbandry, including the nutritional and environmental needs of musk oxen. If the situation arises, you will assist in treating sick or injured musk oxen as necessary. To ensure a lifetime of low-stress interactions with our herd staff, socializing calves is one of the most essential priorities on the farm. We must teach our young animals that they are safe and comfortable with staff. By building mutual respect, we habituate them to our gentle handling protocols throughout their lifetimes. Daily record keeping includes noting hay, feed and feeding schedules, and calf observations. April and May are the months of our combing season when we harvest their valuable qiviut fiber. We hand-comb all our musk oxen for their qiviut (underwool) and record every ounce as it is collected.

Basic daily duties include but are not limited to feeding, cleaning, and behavior observations, as well as building and fixing fences, collecting browse, and weed whacking. There will be lots of time spent outdoors, rain, snow or shine. During April and May, with combing and calving, we will be working odd and possibly long hours, which may include split shifts to accommodate agritourism at the farm. Interns will also be involved in all aspects of the nonprofit, learning about our business, membership, and educational programs.

Interns are needed from mid-April through August. We can make exceptions outside of these dates, but preference will be given to those who can contribute when needed most. Please inform us regarding your availability in your cover letter. The schedule is intended to be 40 hours per week; however, as a working farm, this can vary. Basic on-site housing and a \$350 per month stipend are provided.

We seek individuals pursuing a university degree in animal science or wildlife biology or looking for experience before pursuing advanced degrees in the same or veterinary medicine. Consideration will be given for other relevant education.

Qualifications

- Motivated and self-starting
- Strong work ethic
- Previous work with ungulates/ruminates is preferable.
- Patience with animals and colleagues alike is required.
- Ability to remain positive and flexible with unexpected events
- Capable of reacting quickly and with a level head
- Take and follow directions well - including following the directions at the bottom of this document
- Able to work alone or with a group and under sometimes stressful conditions
- Must have own health insurance

TO APPLY:

Email your resume, cover letter, three professional/educational recommendations/references, and the dates you are available to Alyssa at [**alyssa@muskoxfarm.org**](mailto:alyssa@muskoxfarm.org)

The deadline for application is February 28. We will interview and hire as applications are received.