



David Laws | 954-562-8274 | davidplaws@gmail.com

Over fourteen years and eight farms I've worked my way from WWOOF volunteer to Farm Manager through dedication, patience, and eagerness to learn. Regenerative agriculture is my life's passion. I savor healing ecology and nourishing my community with food I've grown and knowledge I've shared.

I've studied and grown in Florida, Oregon, California, Colorado and North Carolina. I earned a B.A. in Environmental Studies and an Agroecology Certificate from Florida International University (FIU) as well as a second Agroecology Certificate from the distinguished UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) Farm and Garden Apprenticeship. This agricultural education has forever shaped the way I approach farming and its formative effects on our society.

As the FIU Organic Garden Manager I mentored numerous classes, clubs, and visitors. Meanwhile at Verde Gardens I served 155 formerly homeless families with disabilities, training residents, high school, and college students in sustainable ag, nursery management, and permaculture. I went on to manage Treehugger Organic Farms for four years, where my team took a barren 5 acre lot and turned it into a thriving farm, market, and community food hub. Most recently I managed 17 acres of diverse tropical fruit and row vegetables, where we took what was once a degraded, rocky, weed filled horse paddock and transformed it into a productive, certified Regenerative Organic, no-till market garden.

I've taught farming and gardening skills to students of all ages and backgrounds, folks of all genders, veterans, groups on the autism spectrum, the formerly homeless, and the differently abled in numbers ranging from individual volunteers, to apprentice cohorts, to groups of 200+. I believe agrarian knowledge to be essential for all human beings and truly love to teach anyone willing to learn. Time after time, I've seen this education change lives and believe in its potential to change larger systems. I cherish the responsibility of conveying this knowledge and approach my work through science, research, experience, and exploration. I also believe everyone has something to teach and can follow as easily as lead.

My character, education, farming experience, and leadership skills have uniquely prepared me for this position. I know very well both the



David Laws | 954-562-8274 | davidplaws@gmail.com

challenges and rewards of training apprentices to farm sustainably. I'm looking for a position where I can continue to inspire and educate the next generation of growers. I am fully prepared to bring my diverse experience, clear compassionate communication, and can-do attitude to the task.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

David Laws



David Laws | 954-562-8274 | davidplaws@gmail.com

Career Summary

Experienced farm manager with a strong background in organic regenerative market farming, agroecology, permaculture, and on-farm education.

Skills

- Comprehensive working knowledge of numerous agricultural systems, procedures, crop variety habits, organic inputs, pest/weed management strategies, and food safety/post harvest handling requirements
- BCS/Grillo walk behind tractor, skid-steer, CTL, and full size tractor operation and basic maintenance
- Intermediate level woodworking skills, high tunnel and outbuilding construction experience
- Experience generating crop plans, SOPs, crop break-even analysis, inventory, logs, and production reports. Computer fluency, Tend (crop planning software,) Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Square, social media, photo editing, etc.
- Excellent communication skills developed through study and practice of the Nonviolent Communication system. A community minded team player, with working Spanish language fluency.

Experience

FARM MANAGER, PARADISE FARMS ORGANICS; HOMESTEAD, FL – NOV 2019- NOV 2022

- Developed annual crop and orchard management plans, weekly inventory, offer sheets, sales/progress reports, and SOPs, etc.
- Revised record keeping for yearly Organic certification inspections
- Earned ROA's Regenerative Organic Certification
- Pivoted COVID affected restaurant sales to create South Florida's premier CSA experience serving 90 members
- Pioneered new wholesale and online outlets
- Instituted soil restoration practices: multi species cover cropping, no-till permanent raised beds, crop rotation, soil testing informed fertility, compost applications, compost teas, mulched paths, silage tarps, biodiversity/pollinator strips, alley cropping, etc.
- Created food safety plan with SOP's vastly improving quality standards
- Upgraded irrigation systems, repaired, and replaced pumps



David Laws | 954-562-8274 | davidplaws@gmail.com

- Worked with consultant Tradd Cotter to modernize mushroom production facilities
- Organized farm crew, landscaper, WWOOFer, volunteer, and contractor workflow including hiring/firing, scheduling, task delegation, discipline and conflict resolution

ORGANIC FARMER, GLOBAL ORGANIC GARDENS; DAVIE, FL – MAY 2018- OCT 2019

- Designed, installed, and maintained new raised bed growing areas
- Greatly improved farm fertility, mixed vegetable production, IPM practices, and post harvest handling
- “These are the best vegetables we’ve ever received from the farm!”
-Marisa, Farm Owner
- Taught organic gardening for the Yello Summer Camp Program
- Helped complete a massive stonework raised bed labyrinth

GROW ASSISTANT & FARM MANAGER, CHIMNEY ROCK HEMP; BAYFIELD, CO - MAY 2017-NOVEMBER 2017

- Cultivated eight acres of outdoor no-till, industrial hemp for CBD oil extraction and stewarded 33 acres of orchard, pasture, and mixed veg
- Complied with rigorous Department of Agriculture record keeping
- Maintained equipment, aquaponics system, orchard, chickens, and sheep

FARM MANAGER, TREEHUGGER ORGANIC FARMS; DAVIE, FL – JAN 2013-APRIL 2017

- Designed, created, and maintained a two site, 6.6 acre, diversified organic produce farm and fruit orchards, from sand lot to vibrant local community food hub, including CSA, farm stand, edible landscaping nursery, microgreen operation, and farmers’ market with 20+ vendors and hundreds of weekly visitors and thousands of followers
- Cleared the plot, constructed outbuildings, created earthworks, shaped beds through manual and BCS tillage, planted orchards
- Designed and implemented overhead, micro, and drip irrigation systems
- Created in depth crop rotation and CSA plans, sourced seed, and kept detailed records for future organic certification
- Organized farm crew, WWOOFer, and volunteer workflow including hiring/firing, scheduling, tasks, vibe setting, and conflict resolution



David Laws | 954-562-8274 | davidplaws@gmail.com

- Vastly improved and maintained farm wide soil tilth and fertility through cover cropping, manuring, mulching, large scale composting, and compost teas
- Implemented a successful Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and nursery biosecurity plan
- Handled farm marketing, farmers' market/event/farm stand organization, community outreach, social media, farm tours, and classes

GARDEN MANAGER, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY; MIAMI, FLORIDA – 2012- APRIL 2014

- Managed garden production, expanded growing space, directed Agroecology program garden coursework, mentored FIU Garden club members, and facilitated numerous educational garden tours
- Received the 2013 Agroecology Garden Award for service to the FIU Organic Garden

NURSERY MANAGER, VERDE GARDENS; HOMESTEAD, FL – AUG 2011-DEC 2012

- Served the farm's resident community of 155 formerly homeless families with disabilities. Educated numerous residents, apprentices and FIU partnership students on nursery and farm practices
- Produced over 30,000 vegetable, native, and fruit tree starts, supplying the farm and surrounding community
- Surveyed, designed, and planted a 3 acre food forest
- Earned several Permaculture Design Certificates

INTERN FARMER, HEY BAYLES! ORGANIC FARM; LORANE, OREGON – APRIL 2009- MARCH 2010

- Grew mixed vegetables for Oregon State University dining halls, numerous restaurants, and the popular Eugene Saturday Farmers' Market
- Erected twelve 100' x 30' high tunnels for season extension

INTERN FARMER, PARADISE FARMS ORGANICS; HOMESTEAD, FL – APRIL 2010 - AUG 2010, OCT 2008-APRIL 2009

- Grew for and delivered to the best chefs, restaurants, caterers, and hotels across Miami, improved new and existing client relationships, customized products to client needs, tracked inventory, invoices, and sales, helped coordinate farm to table dinner events.
- Fell in love with farming



David Laws | 954-562-8274 | davidplaws@gmail.com

Education

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

– Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) Farm Apprenticeship & Certificate in Agroecology 2015

Florida International University, Miami, FL

– B.A. in Environmental Studies & Certificate in Agroecology 2014

Permaculture Miami, Miami FL

– Permaculture Teacher Training Certificate 2013

Earth Learning Community Foodworks, Homestead, FL

– Permaculture Design & Advanced Agroforestry Certificates 2012

References

Gabriele Marewski: Founder - Paradise Farms Organic (786) 486-8191

Andrew Fisher: Property Manager - Global Organic Garden (561) 632-5670

Rob Nissen: Former Farm Manager - Chimney Rock Farms (970) 731-1700

Nicolas Chalifour: Owner - Treehugger Farms (954) 471-5907

Jason Long: Co-Founder - Treehugger Farms (786) 343-5681

Diane Nichols: Apprenticeship Coordinator- CASFS (831) 459-2321

Stephany Alvarez-Ventura: Program Coordinator - FIU Agroecology

(305) 519-8791