

Dear seaweed farmer,

Let's start off with stating how excited I am to connect with you regarding the fascinating world of seaweed farming. Since I'm completely captivated by this fast-developing industry, and since I have a strong belief in the immense potential of seaweed cultivation in addressing various ecological challenges, I'm eager to find an opportunity to work at an innovative seaweed farm. Please allow me to introduce myself briefly and elaborate a bit on where my dedication to work with seaweed comes from – hopefully you'll see a potential match.

I'm a 29-year-old from Rotterdam, the Netherlands, with up until one and a half years ago a very much non farming background. I actually graduated as an urban and architectural historian and worked as a researcher and consultant in the field of sustainable urban development. Although I was very passionate about this, I quite quickly came to the realization that it wasn't my long-term calling. There were simply too many people talking about sustainable building materials and practices, but only a few seemed to offer true hands-on perspectives on how to shape the future of this field. This prompted me to take matters into my own hands, take a leap of faith and learn more about sustainable agricultural practices myself, since I strongly believe this industry offers an amazing chance to provide us with sustainable building materials in the future. So, I decided to move to Denmark and pursue hands-on training to become a farmer (attending their renowned organic farming school), with a particular interest in wool and seaweed.

Over the past year this journey led me to spend eight months in New Zealand, working as a shepherd at a big sheep and cattle station, to learn everything possible about sheep farming and wool production. Though this experience was immensely rewarding and educational, and I had the absolute best time of my life, it feels like I'm ready now to make my **big dream** a reality: gain knowledge and practical experience in seaweed farming, so hopefully one day I can work together with other sheep- and seaweed farmers and make sustainable building materials out of these raw materials. Just know that my interest in seaweed cultivation simply surpasses everything else, and this is the industry where I truly envision myself a future in.

At the moment, I just finished my second year at school and I'm eagerly seeking an opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship in the upcoming year. This would involve working full-time (for ideally 6-12 months, but more or less would certainly be up for discussion) in everything that's at hand with seaweed farming and the processing into end products. What you would get in return is someone who's extremely passionate, who's willing to live anywhere in the world in order to make a dream come true, and who's genuinely familiar with hard work; my time in New Zealand is a vivid statement to this, as life as a shepherd is far from easy. Additionally, I have extensively delved into the topic of seaweed farming, attended the Nordic Seaweed Conference 2023 to be up to date with the industry's developments, and completed the online course by GreenWave. The only thing I aspire to do next is find an opportunity to work with seaweed first-hand. However, if such an opportunity isn't available within your company, I'm more than open to any suggestions, if you have any!

I will also attach my CV; in case you want to know more about my background and journey so far. I genuinely hope that my story sparked your interest, and just know that I'd be more than happy to arrange a call or a visit to further discuss my interest and motivation, and see if we could be a potential match.

For now, all the best, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,

Elin de Baan
+31 6 42 90 94 31
elindebaan@gmail.com