



Position Opening: Assistant Farm Manager - Organic Vegetable/Livestock Production (8-15-2018)

We are seeking a full-time, year-round Assistant Farm Manager for Willowsford Farm, a sustainably-managed farm in northern Virginia that grows and sells fresh produce, eggs, pastured meats and value-added products directly to residents of Willowsford and surrounding communities.

This hands-on, field-based position requires strong production and farm management experience (ideally in both vegetables and pastured livestock). The Assistant Farm Manager will work closely with the Farm Manager to develop and implement the production plan, oversee field work, provide guidance to crew members, and ensure safe production of high-quality products. Applicants must enjoy working within the non-profit Willowsford Conservancy integrated with a residential community.

Summary

Willowsford Conservancy is an integral part of the developing Willowsford community, located in Aldie and Ashburn, Virginia. Established in 2011, the Conservancy is the steward of 2,000 acres of open space. It's mission is "...the viable, long-term use of the land, integrating farming, recreation, conservation, and education to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Willowsford and the greater community." The Conservancy helps residents connect with food, the land, and each other through the Farm and CSA, education and recreation programs, and sustainable land management practices.

As part of the Conservancy, **Willowsford Farm** manages over 18 acres for vegetable, herb and fruit production, including hoop houses for seedlings and winter production; and over 200 acres of livestock pasture. The farm grows produce following organic methods, raises pastured pork, and produces cage-free eggs. These products are sold through CSA memberships and a farm stand. Planned production for 2019 includes 250-300 CSA vegetable shares, 80-100 winter vegetable shares, 800 laying hens, 30 pigs and, potentially, beef cattle.

Reporting to the Farm Manager, the Assistant Farm Manager will work closely with a team of year-round and seasonal farmers to help manage operations. The Assistant Farm Manager will be committed to the mission of Willowsford Conservancy and embrace the community's values, image, and goals.

Qualifications and Experience

Minimum:

- 3 or more years of hands-on experience in organic vegetable production, with knowledge of a wide range of crops and growing practices
- 1-3 years of management experience
- Positive crew member and leader with a strong work ethic
- Self-directed, and willing to accept and utilize feedback and instruction

- Problem solver, creative thinker, and team player
- Proficiency and confidence in operating a wide range of farm equipment and machinery, including tractors, tillage equipment, transplanters, harvesting equipment, and maintenance equipment
- Experience in all aspects of crop production from propagation to planting, growing, harvesting, and post-harvest handling
- Proficient with computers, mobile devices, commonly used software, and office equipment
- Valid driver's license and clean driving record
- Must be able to comfortably lift and/or move 50lbs and work outdoors in all types of weather
- Must be authorized to work in the U.S.

Desired:

- Livestock management experience, including pastured pork, laying hens, and beef cattle
- Degree in agriculture, animal science, horticulture, or related field
- Experience in CSA production and management

Primary Responsibilities

Working closely with the Farm Manager, develop and execute a farm management plan. Help develop weekly work orders, direct farm crews, provide feedback to the Farm Manager on priorities and operations, and oversee aspects of farm production. This is a hands-on, field-based position responsible for carrying out farm production activities.

Farm Production

- Assist with the development and implementation of production plans that direct vegetable, fruit, herb, and livestock production
- Work closely with Farm Manager to plan, manage, and execute seeding, transplant production, planting, cultivation, irrigation, harvesting, and post-harvest handling to meet production goals and assure high product quality
- Operate farm equipment and machinery in a safe and efficient manner
- Assist with supervision of field crew and operations

CSA

- Assist and direct harvest, preparation, packing, and distribution of CSA and wholesale products, ensuring food quality and food safety standards are met
- Positively represent the Conservancy through customer interactions and product quality

Other

- Maintain production records
- Assist with the maintenance and repair of equipment, facilities, and infrastructure
- Help maintain a safe, clean, inviting, and organized environment for staff, customers, and visitors.
- The position and the farm may evolve; other duties as assigned

Compensation: We offer competitive wages commensurate with experience. Benefits include medical and dental coverage, 401(k) retirement plan, paid time off (typically taken during the winter), and performance-based annual bonus potential. Weekend & extended hours are required during the growing season. Housing is available for 50% of fair market value plus utilities and consists of a remodeled single-family farm house, 7.5 miles from the main farm office on one of the farm locations.

To Apply: Please send a resume, cover letter, salary requirements, and professional references to info@willowsfordconservancy.org. Application deadline: September 30, 2018