Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
Bellwether Farm
Camp, Retreat, and Education Center
Farm Manager Job Description

Advertisement:

Bellwether Farm Camp, Retreat, and Education Center, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, will offer a model for sustainable living that promotes physical and spiritual wellness, fidelity to the environment, and social justice by incorporating farming, food production, and environmental stewardship into land-based educational programs for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Our 137-acre property in Wakeman, Ohio will support a residential summer camp program for up to 100 campers per session, retreats for individuals and groups up to 80 people, school field trips, classes, workshops, and seasonal community events. The Diocese is also partnering with various organizations in Northern Ohio to provide innovative programs that serve targeted populations, including economically disadvantaged children and families.

The project team is seeking candidates for the position of farm manager with an expected start date of April 1, 2017. Please review the job description for more information and requirements.

Job Description:

The Farm Manager will be responsible for all matters related to the farm operations at Bellwether Farm. This includes working with the program staff to develop an educational curriculum about sustainable, regenerative agriculture, as well as coordinating with kitchen staff on supporting food service for the center and the teaching kitchen. The farm manager will also engage with the center’s administration to develop and institute land management practices that meet the highest standards of environmental stewardship.

Specific duties of this position include:

Production

- Starting with 1-2 acres of mixed vegetable production and 15+ acres of pasture in the first year, develop and implement (daily) a production management plan consistent with organic practices which includes: soil testing, crop selection, seed starting schedule, planting schedule, crop rotation plans, harvest plans, soil fertility plans, integrated pest management, and equipment maintenance schedules.
- In consultation with the center administration, build a farm budget and oversee the implementation of the budget, including farm purchases.
- Build a progressive farm plan that improves management of the farm, increases production totals and land use (up to 7 acres of mixed vegetable crops, and 15+ acres of pastures), details new projects, and addresses overall sustainability.
- Oversee all daily work on the farm, including any farm workers, interns, and volunteers.
Education
• Work with education staff to develop educational materials and activities for youth and adult farm visitors and oversee the implementation of these materials and activities
• Develop educational materials and experiences for any farm workers, interns, or volunteers and oversee implementation of these materials and experiences

Land Stewardship
• Work with center administration to develop a plan to reach organic certification
• Work with a team to advise and develop place-based education around the importance of the farmland to the overall mission of the retreat center
• Continually improve the farm’s use of natural resources to the goal of the farm being a resource and example of sustainable production in northeast Ohio

Travel
• Must be able to travel to local or regional meetings occasionally

Supervisory responsibilities
• The Farm Manager must supervise interns, volunteers and, possibly, seasonal workers

ADA
• The physical requirements of this position are related to a standard farming environment.
• Must be able to lift, bend, carry, move equipment, and use farming machinery, equipment, and standard tools
• While performing the duties of the job, the employee is required to hear, talk, stand, walk, reach, stoop, or kneel.
• Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds

Experience required:
• Three years management experience on a vegetable farm
• Two years experience in animal husbandry
• Tractor or other farm machinery experience
• Three years personnel management experience
• Some teaching experience

Additional qualities desired:
• Strong land ethic that values that which contributes to and preserves the integrity, stability and beauty of the land and its human and non-human community
• Creativity around resource use, reduction of waste-streams, and problem-solving
• Eagerness to learn and apply principals of regenerative agriculture consistent with mission
• Willingness to live on-site
• Understanding of ecological processes and systems
• Good organizational and communications skills
Salary and benefits:

- Salary commensurate with experience
- Health and Dental Insurance
- Housing – available in late 2017

Submit resume with cover letter by March 1 to:

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