



Position Available

Farmland Center Program Coordinator

This position is available based on grant allocations, reports to the Executive Director of the Countryside Conservancy, and includes the following responsibilities:

Develop, manage, and implement an annual plan of work for the Farmland Center based on the mission and goals of the Countryside Conservancy. The Center is a regional resource for farmland preservation, farm viability, land use planning, and local food systems.

The work of the Center is focused in three primary areas:

1. Public education and outreach
2. Technical assistance to local communities
3. Policy research and advocacy

Responsibilities & Qualifications:

Strong Communication Skills Make public presentations, conduct public relations, maintain networks with township, county, regional and statewide agricultural stakeholders. Develop print materials that advance the Center's goals, maintain a strong web presence of contacts, events and resources related to the Center's plan of work. Work closely with other Conservancy staff to further the organizational mission in all communication and outreach.

Program Management Skills Ability to work well independently managing the work of the Center. Partner with county level farmland preservation efforts, community and economic development offices, and state level farming and food system efforts. Manage the FarmLink program connecting farmers and farmland: Oversee the FarmLink Coordinator, develop annual goals for the program, promote the program, and assist with replication throughout the state. Develop and implement educational and informational workshops, assist in planning the annual state farmland preservation conference, and assist the Conservancy Director and staff with related organizational projects.

Advocacy Skills Represent the Center/Conservancy on state level organizations, boards and committees. Partner with environmental, conservation and sustainable agriculture agencies and organizations as necessary. Follow existing and proposed legislation as it relates to agricultural land use, local food systems development, and farm operation and transition. Conduct policy analysis, facilitate needed research, identify and/or develop viable policy options that lead to healthy farm and food systems, and the protection of farmland in Northeast Ohio.

Development Skills Experience and ability to identify funding sources for the Farmland Center and FarmLink program, develop relationships with funders, write and follow up on grant proposals. Assist with implementation of the Countryside Conservancy Friends Program, and work to create a stable and diversified funding base for Conservancy programs.

Minimum Requirements

Undergraduate degree in planning, agriculture, natural resources management or related field.

Desired Qualifications

Graduate degree in the aforementioned fields and/or substitution of an equivalent level of experience. Knowledge of farming, land use planning, and local food systems issues and opportunities.

Terms

Full time salaried position subject to available grant funding. Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with education and experience. Ability and means to travel on a flexible schedule as needed.

The above job description does not imply that these are the only duties to be performed by this employee. He or she will be required to follow any other instructions and to perform any other duties requested by his or her supervisor.

Application Procedure

Persons wishing to apply for this position should submit a letter of interest and resume by May 23, 2008 to:

Darwin Kelsey
Executive Director
Countryside Conservancy
2179 Everett Road
Peninsula, OH 44264