



Food Access Associate

About Countryside

Countryside connects people, food, and land. We manage three thriving farmers' markets; offer educational programming for farmers, backyard gardeners, and home cooks with our Countryside U courses; and through our Countryside Initiative program have reestablished working family farms in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

About Countryside Farmers' Markets

Countryside began managing farmers' markets in 2004. Currently, we manage two summer markets and one winter market in the greater Akron area. The markets collectively serve over 50,000 customers each year, and vendor sales exceed \$1 million. 2018 is our fifteenth season in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and our fourteenth season in Akron. Our markets are **producer-only**; vendors are required to be growing, producing or making the products offered at the markets.

The purposes of the Countryside Farmers' Markets are three-fold:

- Provide a venue where local farmers, producers, artisans, and artists can sell their high-quality products directly to the consumer.
- Connect consumers with a wide array of locally grown and produced foods and goods in a setting that allows them to interact directly with the grower or producer, thereby re-connecting them directly to the source of their food.
- Create a space that allows for community interaction and enjoyment, informal public education and civic engagement.

About Food Access at Countryside

Fresh, nutritious, locally grown and produced food should be accessible to all people – regardless of socioeconomic factors and geography. Countryside began accepting SNAP benefits at its farmers' markets in 2009; in 2011, we launched Carrot Cash, a nutrition incentive program providing a dollar-for-dollar match on SNAP purchases, for the purchase of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. In 2016, Countryside became a founding member of the Ohio Nutrition Incentive Network, a statewide coalition of organizations, farmers' markets, and retail partners, working to make healthy food affordable for all Ohioans. In 2018, we transitioned from the Carrot Cash brand to the statewide brand, Produce Perks. Countryside is the regional spoke for Produce Perks in Summit, Portage, Stark, and Medina counties and facilitates the program for 10 area farmers' markets.

Countryside also works closely with Summit County WIC on their Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Voucher program.

We are always exploring new and innovative strategies to increase the access to and impacts of healthy and fresh local foods on peoples and communities in need.

Position Summary

- The Food Access Associate position is a **seasonal, part-time** position **starting as soon as possible** and ending at the end of October, 2018.

Anna Dean Farm Market – On- and Off-Site Program Administration – 50%

- Communicates and coordinates with Barberton Historical Society and market representatives
- Sets-up and tears-down Countryside booth space
- Communicates with market vendors regarding program processes and requirements
 - Ensures compliance with program restrictions
- Processes SNAP/Produce Perks transactions on-site
 - Provides welcoming customer service
 - Collects and records customer data consistently and accurately
 - Distributes tokens accurately per transactions
- Administers buyback of tokens from vendors accurately
- Completes all related data entry post-market



Outreach – 30%

- Identifies and connects with agency and neighborhood partners to increase awareness of SNAP/Produce Perks at farmers' markets
- Maintains database of partners and outreach initiatives
- Presents to individuals and groups to inform and educate about the programs
- Develops content for website, enews, and social media related to programs

Data Management, Program-Wide – 20%

- Weekly data entry of SNAP/Produce Perks data into FMTracks database for Countryside Farmers' Markets;
- Receives monthly data from network markets and enter data into FMTracks;
 - Communicate with network markets as necessary to ensure accurate and timely submission of required data;
- Receives monthly invoice from network markets and verify amount totals with submitted data;
- Prepares monthly network invoice for submission to Produce Perks Midwest.

Key Skills

- High-level customer service skills, with an approachable, friendly, patient and informative communication style.
- Meticulous cash handling and record keeping.
- Independent and task-oriented work ethic.

Schedule Requirements

- Seasonal and part-time: June – October, 20 hours per week.
- Tuesdays, 12pm-8pm, required.
- Wednesday and Friday, business hours, availability required.
- Flexibility required, as presentations and meetings require.

Additional Qualifications

- Must be willing to do physical work and be capable of lifting object ~50 lbs.
- Must have a valid driver's license, a clean driving record and be comfortable driving a transit van.
- Must be able and willing to work outside in inclement weather.
- Proficiency with Google applications, Microsoft Office required.
- Interest and background in local food and food access issues a plus.
- Interest and background in community development a plus.

Compensation

\$13/hour

To Apply

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis; **position to be filled as soon as possible**. Send a one-page cover letter, one-page resume and three professional references to Erin Molnar, Director of Local Food Programs, at emolnar@cvcountrieside.org.