Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development
Part-Time, Food & Farm Specialist

The Food & Farm Specialist supports the Iowa Valley RC&D’s Regional Food System Initiative through development and implementation of projects, training coordination, farmer outreach, and farm management tasks. This initiative includes efforts in farm to school, farmers markets, farmer training, food safety, food hub development, food entrepreneur technical assistance, food production, and community food security.

This position has two main areas of work: 1) the implementation of a Clean Start Food Safety Program for Beginning Farmers in Eastern Iowa and 2) support for farm management duties as part of the Grow Johnson County program. Tasks will include recruitment of project participants, meeting coordination, developing technical resources for farmers, data entry, analyzing and compiling project data, conducting project evaluation, farm labor, and possible equipment operation. This position will be given the training to become an on farm food safety expert including training as a Produce Safety Alliance trainer and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Food Safety Auditor. Must be able to work independently as well as collaboratively. This position is dynamic and requires work outdoors in all types of Iowa weather. This position performs all other tasks as assigned.

Iowa Valley RC&D recognizes the importance of social capital and professional networking, especially in today’s business landscape. To this end, this position is expected to foster and maintain a positive, professional, and mutually beneficial relationship network with area leaders, project partners, community stakeholders and project beneficiaries. The Food & Farm Specialist reports to the Deputy Director. This is a part-time, position will split time between located in the Iowa Valley RC&D office (920 48th Avenue, Amana, Iowa 52203) and at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm (4811 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52246). Travel is required. This position requires availability on weekday nights and weekends. Must possess and maintain a valid Iowa Driver’s license with a satisfactory driving record.

Compensation
$15/hr

Abilities
Interest and ability in performing physically strenuous work outdoors in adverse weather conditions on rugged terrain.
Interest and ability in coordinating and leading both volunteer groups and professional work crews
Willingness to learn how to safely and effectively operate, maintain, and repair farming equipment including but not limited to tractors up to 80hp, chainsaw, small engine tools.
Willingness to learn how to complete basic plumbing and carpentry tasks
Ability to prioritize and troubleshoot high stress situations while maintaining professionalism
Must be able to carry at least 50 pounds

Qualifications
Bachelor’s Degree
2+ Years work experience related to farm operations, food systems, food safety, farm businesses
Farm equipment operation (tractor operation and maintenance)
Knowledge of food safety best practices on farms
Excellent speaking, writing, and facilitation skills
Personality strengths that complement the staff team
Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
Knowledge of local and regional food systems
Attended Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training in the last two years (desirable)
1+ years working on a farm (desirable)

Unless Employee has entered into an express written agreement signed by an officer of the Company which explicitly alters the at-will relationship, Employee's employment relationship with the Company is at-will and it is not for any fixed term or duration. The Company may terminate Employee's employment with the Company at any time and for any reason, with or without cause or notice. Employee may terminate Employee's employment with the Company for any reason at any time. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to alter this at-will employment relationship, and such at-will employment relationship may not be modified except by an express written agreement signed by an officer of the Company and Employee.