

We save land.



We save rivers.

Farm Manager for The Conservation Foundation

Job Summary: We're looking for an experienced, energetic and knowledgeable Farm Manager to join our growing team at The Conservation Foundation. The Farm Manager will manage day-to-day agricultural activities, lead and supervise our farm crew and volunteers, interact with our Green Earth Harvest program customers and support emerging community partnerships related to local food issues. Excellent agricultural, organizational and communication skills are important qualifications for this position, as well as the ability to lead others. This position is located at our McDonald Farm, a 60-acre, certified organic farm located in Naperville, Illinois. We have a growing CSA program that feeds more than 650 families with 40+ varieties of vegetables. There is a 2-bedroom apartment on site that is available at a discounted rent. The ideal candidate for this position is experienced with a farm of a similar size, a skilled multi-tasker, is reliable and committed to exceeding customer expectations and is experienced in community-based work. We're an energetic group and are looking for a passionate individual to join our organization and lead this program. The Green Earth Harvest program is poised to grow in new and exciting ways, including the potential of opening additional locations and/or creating/operating urban farming programs.

Reports to: Vice President of Land & Watershed Programs

Full-time, year-round, exempt

Location: McDonald Farm, Naperville, Illinois

Duties and Responsibilities include:

- Recruiting, supervising, scheduling and training paid field crew and volunteers;
- Production planning;
- Ordering seeds and supplies;
- Planting, weeding, pest and disease control, harvesting, washing, and soil building;
- Supplying ample produce for the CSA and our farm stand;
- Managing on-farm CSA pickups and off-farm deliveries;
- Managing the farm stand;
- Greenhouse transplant production and season-extending greenhouse production;
- Farm record keeping, including paperwork and management of organic certification;
- Basic farm equipment maintenance and infrastructure improvement;
- All other aspects of farm operation and management;
- Providing exceptional customer service;
- Developing (with TCF program staff) emerging urban agriculture opportunities and partnerships.

Experience: Minimum ten years previous agriculture experience with at least five years in a managerial role and a demonstrated knowledge of organic practices and leadership of farm crews.

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Experience (continued):

- 5+ years managing an organic vegetable farm; familiarity with crop rotations, soil fertility building, cover crops;
- Managerial experience in a farm setting; demonstrated ability to inspire, lead and manage employees and volunteers in performing tasks through direct supervision or as a team/project leader;
- Continuing education in food safety best practices;
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, ability to speak Spanish preferred;
- Tractor-driving skills;
- Experience working with Microsoft Office;
- Organizational budget planning and management;
- Commitment to high standards in vegetable production, sales, and farm presentation;
- Strong social and interpersonal skills including the ability to resolve and mediate conflict and maintain good working relationships with coworkers, volunteers, local partners and members of the community;
- Knowledge of and commitment to soil health, water conservation and ecological systems;
- Experience in grant reporting and grant management;
- Experience in urban agriculture community partnerships a plus;
- Current and valid Illinois driver's license required as there is local travel involved;
- Persistence, sense-of-humor and entrepreneurial spirit welcomed;
- Connection to and passionate interest in the mission of The Conservation Foundation.

Physical Demands and Work Environment:

- Outside in all types of weather for prolonged periods;
- Able to perform heavy lifting of weights up to 60 pounds;
- Some late hours and weekends required.

Benefits: Salary is budgeted at \$60,000 per year. In addition, we offer:

- Health insurance
- Dental insurance
- 401K match
- 2-bedroom apartment available on-site at a discounted rent
- Paid time off

Timeline: Application deadline - September 20, 2022 or until filled. Estimated start date of November 1, 2022.

Please direct all resumes and questions to: Dan Lobbes, Vice President of Land & Watershed Programs at: dlobbes@theconservationfoundation.org.

The Conservation Foundation is committed to creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment where everyone is valued and belongs. We seek to be an organization where each individual thrives and where unique views, beliefs and perspectives are respected and celebrated.

The Conservation Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. All aspects of employment including the decision to hire, promote, discipline, or discharge, will be based on merit, competence, performance, and business needs. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy, genetic information, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other status protected under federal, state, or local law.