

SANBORN MILLS FARM

Position Announcement

Date: February 3, 2016
Title: Farm Educator
Application Deadline: Open until filled
Start Date: No earlier than March, 2017



Sanborn Mills Farm (SMF) is seeking an experienced individual or couple to maintain and expand the farm's sustainable agriculture program.

Position Responsibilities:

- Maintain a teaching garden to serve as an “outdoor classroom” for interns and workshops on gardening practices for the general public.
- Grow vegetables, oversee egg production, and manage livestock for meat production (chickens, pigs & beef cattle) to supply meals for SMF workshops and farm staff shares.
- Develop a program for the production of grains to feed SMF livestock.
- Work collaboratively with the SMF draft animal program staff for plowing and cultivating of agricultural fields and gardens.
- Carry out seed saving protocols for in-house farm use in order to preserve heirloom varieties of vegetables and grains and biodiversity for the farm.
- Plan and teach workshops in traditional gardening practices (approximately 4-6 per year).
- Manage farm/agricultural interns (1-3 per year).
- Represent SMF at outreach and promotional events (approximately 2-3 per year).
- Prepare year-end reports on all aspects of SMF agricultural production.

This position reports to SMF Farm Manager Tim Huppe.

Required Experience & Skills:

- Several years of experience managing a sizable agricultural endeavor, either on a large homestead garden or for a successful market garden, utilizing organic principles.
- Knowledge of:
 - Organic agricultural practices including composting, cultivation, disease & insect prevention and eradication, and seed saving.
 - Use of draft animal power for farm work including plowing and cultivating.
 - Raising and processing food-based livestock including pigs, chickens, and beef cattle.
- Experience in developing and teaching agricultural workshops.
- Ability to design curriculum for and supervise agricultural/farming interns.
- Ability to work independently, as well as cooperatively with other farm staff.
- Willingness to help give public presentations showcasing SMF programs.
- Willingness to work outside in a range of weather conditions and ability to lift and carry heavy objects as needed.
- Computer skills including Microsoft Word & Excel, email, and use of online shared calendars.

Education:

- Bachelor's Degree in an agricultural, resource management, or environmental field of study preferred.
- Extensive real-world experience may be substituted for academic background.

Salary & Benefits:

- Full-time position, averaging 40–60 hours a week; more during the growing season, less during the winter months. Weekend duties typical to farm work are to be expected.
- Salary commensurate with experience; benefit package included.
- Residence on the farm is required; housing is provided and considered part of the overall compensation package.
- Position will be assessed at intervals, with continuation pending successful review at 6 months and 12 months from start date.

How to Apply:

Send a cover letter outlining why you are interested in the position and how you think your skills would contribute to the overall mission of Sanborn Mills Farm. Include a full resume and a list of at least 3 references including full contact information. Mail or email (as PDF files please) a full packet to:

Mary Witschonke, Administrative Assistant
7097 Sanborn Rd
Loudon, NH 03307
Email: info@sanbornmills.org

About Sanborn Mills Farm:

Sanborn Mills Farm is a traditional farm and nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainability, creativity, and preserving folklife and agricultural knowledge so that the best of the past can help shape our future. Located in central New Hampshire, the farm includes over 390 acres of fields and forest, surrounded by almost 2,000 acres of open land held in conservation. Water from Sanborn Pond flows through two fully restored dams and provides power to two mid-1800s restored mills - a saw mill and a grist mill. Other buildings include a historic blacksmith shop, a blacksmith teaching studio, a 1700s cape, several timber framed barns, and out buildings. Ornamental gardens surround the main farm house, which houses the main office. A dedicated staff that includes timber framers, carpenters, draft animal teamsters, water-powered mill specialists, gardeners, and crafts people preserve a wide range of traditional skills.

The agriculture program includes a teaching garden, two large hoop houses, a seed saving initiative, and fields for hay and grain production. The farm is State of New Hampshire Department of Agriculture certified organic in the growing of vegetables and hay, and utilizes draft animal power in combination with tractor power in farm work. There is a full inventory of modern and antique farm implements and equipment. Meat and egg production has been seasonal and includes pigs and poultry.

The farm's educational mission is supported through workshops that provide opportunities for people to learn traditional skills and explore how they can be integrated into modern life. Currently, workshops are being offered in blacksmithing, draft animal power, and one in traditional floor cloths. Workshops on traditional gardening practices are on hold until the Farm Educator position is filled. The farm is in the process of planning for the future expansion of educational programs. Building projects are underway that will provide on-site housing and food service so that people can stay overnight, eat, learn, and create on the farm.