



Watershed Agricultural Council

www.nycwatershed.org



Farmhearts Fellowship Description

Farmhearts is sponsoring a fellowship in collaboration with the Farm to Market Program of the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC). The fellow will work with the Farm to Market Program and focus on beginning farmer programming.

The mission of Farmhearts is to preserve the environmental integrity and economic sustainability of agricultural regions by supporting family farms. WAC is a private non-profit organization with the mission to support the economic viability of agriculture and forestry through the protection of water quality and the promotion of land conservation in the New York City watershed region. The Farm to Market Program of WAC administers the Pure Catskills buy local campaign, organizes events on value added production, and facilitates business connections between farm and food businesses. Over 200 businesses from Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties participate in the Pure Catskills campaign.

Eligible candidates include apprentice farmers, proprietors of recently established agricultural businesses and emerging professionals in the local food marketplace. Individuals may apply by providing a personal statement and a resume. The statement should address agricultural experience, communications skills, familiarity with the agricultural community in the Catskills region and the individual's future goals related to agriculture. Please limit statements to one page.

Applications will be accepted until February 15, 2011. The anticipated start date for the fellow is late February. Selection of the fellow will be performed by Farm to Market program staff and representative farmers. Payment will be offered on an hourly basis and will be commensurate with experience. The anticipated hourly compensation is \$16-18. Work schedule will be arranged with the selected fellow allowing for part and full time employment based on seasonal availability. This is a temporary position. All applications and inquiries should be directed to Challey Comer, Farm to Market Manager at ccomer@nycwatershed.org. No phone calls please.

Fiscal sponsorship for Farmhearts is provided by the Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development (www.sasdonline.org). For more information about Farmhearts contact info@farmhearts.org. WAC is funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other public, foundation and private sources. WAC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. For more information about WAC, visit www.nycwatershed.org.

Farmhearts Fellow Position Description

Basic requirements

- Driver's license and personal vehicle (mileage reimbursement will be available)
- Regular Internet and email access
- Strong communication and event planning skills
- Farming experience (2 years minimum) as an apprentice farmers, proprietor of a recently established agricultural businesses or an emerging professionals in the local food marketplace
- Knowledge of the agricultural community in the Catskills region

Anticipated activities

Catskills Farmlink

- Produce content on Catskills agricultural infrastructure – county profiles, business support, etc.
- Draft profiles of farmers, new businesses, marketplace and community progress
- Support input of land listings and land seekers including site visits and application processing
- Maintain resource list including support services, funding opportunities and market outlets
- Coordinate regional farmer education online calendar
- Manage online farmer-to-farmer resources for livestock sales, skill share, outreach, etc.
- Collaborate with Farmlink partners including local and regional organizations and agencies

Catskills C.R.A.F.T (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training)

- Establish a CRAFT group for the Catskills region through collaboration with existing groups
- Coordinate schedule of monthly farm visits with farmers
- Create promotional materials for the program including online and print content
- Broaden the network of intern and mentor farmers, create application materials for new farms
- Attend farm tour events and document progress for future planning and outreach purposes
- Maintain relationships with other CRAFT groups across region
- Align growth of CRAFT group with other beginning farmer efforts

Social support

- Organize events and informal promotion for beginning and diversifying farmers in the region
- Collaborate with service providers (i.e., Cornell Small Farms Program Beginning Farmer Project) to bring programming to the county and region
- Support partnerships with regional entities aimed at promoting viable agriculture in the region