

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Program Organizer- Land Stewardship Project's Farm Beginnings®
100% Full Time Equivalent
Land Stewardship Project Office in Lewiston, Minnesota
Start Date: July 1, 2009
Application due date: June 19, 2009

Farm Beginnings® is committed to more successful, sustainable farmers raising livestock and crops on the land, through farmer-led seminars and mentoring, in Minnesota and beyond. Farm Beginnings is equally committed to leadership development toward positive social change. Farm Beginnings provides farmer-to-farmer training, education, mentoring, and zero interest livestock loans to help beginning farmers start or transition into sustainable farming practices. This Farm Beginnings Organizer position will work directly with beginning and established farmers as well as helping to build larger community support and understanding around beginning farmer issues. As a result of this important work, by 2017, Farm Beginnings® will have a substantial impact on the larger society and future rural landscape.

This full time position will focus on Farm Beginnings work in the Driftless Region (covering SE Minnesota, western Wisconsin and NE Iowa) and be based in the LSP office in Lewiston, Minnesota. The Farm Beginnings Program Organizer will be supervised by Karen Stettler, Farm Beginnings Program Director.

Key Areas of Responsibility:

Facilitation of Farm Beginnings Classes:

- Lead organizing and facilitation of Farm Beginnings Classes in Driftless Region
- Participate in the recruitment for Driftless Region class
- Participate in regular planning, feedback and coordination calls with Prairie Region facilitator and facilitator coordinator
- Lead evaluation and adjustment of Farm Beginnings Classes to meet the needs of students
- Lead the monitoring of spending for the class to stay within the predetermined budget
- Lead coordination of student-led individualized learning plans
- Assist with development and implementation of on-farm education components
- Assist lead organizer with matching and follow-up of mentors and students
- Provide timely written and verbal updates on individual student progress and progress of class as a whole to the Farm Beginnings team, Farm Beginnings presenters and steering committee

This position will consist of additional responsibilities as feasible:

- Continuing Education/ Resource Building for Beginning Farmers
- Livestock Loan Program
- New Faces in Agriculture
- Engage in emerging issues as needed

All Farm Beginnings team members are expected to collaborate in the following areas; fundraising, membership recruitment and retention, database entry and management, interaction with program advisory committees as appropriate, one- to-one meetings with targeted members and resource people, collaborating with LSP staff in other programs as appropriate.

Key Skills:

- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team
- Good written and oral skills
- Ability to work in rural areas with farmers, previous rural organizing experience a plus
- Experience with farmer training programs (e.g. Farm Beginnings) and mentoring programs
- Experience in farming preferable
- Ability to be creative in solving problems and getting the work done
- Ability to travel, sometimes overnight
- Familiarity with and supportive of social justice concerns and organizing for positive change.
- Flexibility to work closely with supervisor to implement the program priorities and implement assigned projects based on experience and skills
- Availability for evening and weekend work
- Ability for regular daily work in the Lewiston office
- Ability and experience working with communities of color preferable

Please submit a cover letter, resume and writing sample to: Karen Stettler, Farm Beginnings Program Director,
stettler@landstewardshipproject.org or Land Stewardship Project, P.O. Box 130, Lewiston, MN 55952, 507-523-3366.