

Liberty Prairie Foundation

Position Title: Farm Business Development Center Director and Farm Manager

Location: Grayslake, IL

Organization: Liberty Prairie Foundation

Background

The Liberty Prairie Foundation seeks a dynamic and versatile professional to fill the new position of Farm Business Development Center Director and Farm Manager. Major responsibilities include the management and development of the Farm Business Development Center incubator program and oversight of all aspects of our certified organic, sustainably managed farm.

The Liberty Prairie Foundation is a 501c(3) private operating foundation located in Grayslake, Illinois. The Foundation is recognized as a leader in developing and supporting innovative programs that build and strengthen our local food system while enhancing the natural landscape. The Foundation is headquartered at the 100-acre certified organic Prairie Crossing Farm, a working organic farm nestled inside the Prairie Crossing conservation community in Grayslake. The Foundation has several established programs of its own and provides leadership and financial support for food system, land conservation and preservation, transportation, and civic engagement in our region. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.libertyprairie.org.

Since 2005, the Foundation has launched 15 farm businesses through its Farm Business Development Center—an incubator program for beginning farmers. This program provides beginning farmers with affordable access to land, infrastructure, equipment, and a positive learning environment that helps them develop the entrepreneurial skills, farming knowledge, and market networks needed to become successful professional farmers. For more information about the FBDC, click [here](#).

The Foundation's Prairie Crossing Farm is primarily used in three ways: land is leased to individual beginning farmers through the Farm Business Development Center; land is leased on a long-term basis to an established commercial family farm, Sandhill Family Farms, providing for mentorship opportunities to the beginning farmers; and land is used by Foundation staff to advance educational programming which includes workshops, tours, events, and an agriculture-based youth development program—the Prairie Farm Corps.

Position Summary

The Farm Business Development Center Director and Farm Manager will have demonstrated experience and proficiency with organic farming production systems, sustainable land management, and program management. Please note that this is not an entry-level position, and is a full-time, year-round role.

Required Skills, Experience and Personal Qualities

- A minimum of 5 years of demonstrated experience and proficiency with organic farming production systems and sustainable land management
- Knowledge of and experience with a wide variety of farm equipment and infrastructure
- Demonstrated experience in a supervisory position with an ability to project manage, delegate, and independently manage multiple projects and priorities at the same time
- Detail oriented, creative, and high energy with a passion for sustainable farming, healthy land and changing our region's food system
- Must be comfortable working in a highly collaborative environment and possess a positive, cooperative attitude.
- Exceptional interpersonal, oral and written communication skills
- Small business development, technical assistance, and mentoring experience highly preferred

Essential Responsibilities

- Serve as Director of the Foundation's Farm Business Development Center and primary point person for collaboration between FBDC farmers, Sandhill Family Farms and the Foundation's Prairie Farm Corps youth development program
- Serve as Farm Manager for the Prairie Crossing Farm, which necessitates land, infrastructure, facility, equipment, and labor management
- Collaborate with staff to advance the Foundation's work in community food systems, land access, and other initiatives
- Represent the Liberty Prairie Foundation at conferences, workshops, and events and with a wide range of individuals and organizations
- Provide technical support and guidance to farm businesses, units of government, and nonprofit organizations as needed
- Must be able to conduct labor typically associated with farm management: lifting up to 50 pounds, walking on uneven terrain, kneeling/bending and operating farm machinery, such as a tractor.
- Other duties as assigned

Salary

This is a full-time, salaried position with benefits. Salary is competitive and negotiable.

How to Apply

Send a cover letter, resume, and two references to Emily@libertyprairie.org by July 31.

We are unable to accept phone calls or other inquires related to this position announcement. The Liberty Prairie Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.