

Job Announcement:

Local Foods Program Manager

Rural Advantage



Position Title: Local Foods Program Manager

Position Summary:

The primary role of the Local Foods Program Manager will be to manage the local foods programming of Rural Advantage. We are looking for a person who can help us grow our local foods programming activities in rural south central Minnesota. The position will be responsible for development of local food systems that include growers through to cafeterias, marketing and enterprise development. Current programming includes farm2cafeteria, community garden, farmer's market coordination, food policy council, learning group, market development and assisting growers. This position will manage multiple projects, funded through grants, and coordinate with staff and project partners to meet project goals and Rural Advantage's nonprofit mission.

Organizational Profile: Rural Advantage is a Fairmont, Minnesota based nonprofit formed in 2003. The mission of Rural Advantage is to promote the connections between agriculture, the environment and rural communities in order to improve ecological health, economic viability and rural vitality. There are four key programming initiatives: 3rd Crops, Renewable Energy [Madelia Model], Ecosystem Payments and Local Foods. Rural Advantage has been a leader for innovative, forward thinking projects in the area of agricultural production and water quality, ecological uplifts and supporting increased local food production and consumption.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Plans and develops methods and procedures for implementing various local foods projects.
- Assists local growers through individual and group meetings to understand program objectives and deliver projects in a timely manner to achieve project outcomes.
- Manage local foods projects.
- Provide education and outreach programming.
- Ability to work constructively and cooperatively with a diverse array of staff, project partners and the public.
- Coordination and planning of meetings and events.
- Willingness to assist with other projects as assigned.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, Nonprofit Management or related field
- Three to five years of experience in project management
- Agricultural background, experience or knowledge
- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent communication [verbal & written] and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work with and lead teams
- Ability to manage multiple projects at a time

Compensation and Benefits:

This is a full time [40 hours per week] grant funded position. Salary is dependent on qualifications.

How to Apply:

Please email cover letter, resume and three references to Linda Meschke, President of Rural Advantage at: linda@ruraladvantage.org or send a hard copy in the mail to Linda Meschke, Rural Advantage, 1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222, Fairmont, MN 56031. Position is open until filled.

Rural Advantage is an Equal Opportunity Employer