



JOB DESCRIPTION

Working Lands Alliance Project Director New England Office

American Farmland Trust (AFT), the leading national organization dedicated to saving America's farm and ranch land, promoting healthy farming practices and a sustainable future for farms, seeks an energetic self-starter to direct the Working Lands Alliance in Connecticut. A project of AFT, the Working Lands Alliance (WLA) is a diverse coalition of individuals and over 200 businesses and organizations dedicated specifically to farmland preservation in Connecticut. Since its creation in 2000, WLA has raised over \$50 million in public funding for farmland protection and successfully championed several visionary pieces of state legislation.

The ideal candidate will have a background in agriculture and public policy, familiarity with Connecticut stakeholders, and experience in fundraising and in managing collaborative projects involving multiple partners. Excellent communication skills, a willingness to manage all aspects of coalition activities, and the vision to lead and grow a dynamic coalition is essential.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Directs and implements all activities of WLA in close collaboration with 15-member WLA Steering Committee.
- Responsible for outcomes of all WLA activities, which include research and education, policy development, grassroots and direct advocacy, outreach and communications, member and public events, administration and fundraising.
- Cultivates and maintains relationships with Connecticut policy makers and thought leaders, government officials, conservation and smart growth organization leaders, food advocacy leaders, as well as with the Connecticut agricultural community and its leadership.
- Communicates effectively and regularly with WLA members and its partners.
- Directs advocacy and legislative activities for WLA based on annual policy agenda as shaped and adopted by the WLA Steering Committee. Must register as CT lobbyist.
- Develops annual and project work plans and budgets and is responsible for meeting revenue targets in coordination with WLA Development Subcommittee and AFT New England Director.
- As time and funding permits, coordinates and/or participates in AFT initiatives in Connecticut and elsewhere in New England region.
- Reports to AFT New England Director and works out of the AFT Connecticut field office.

Qualifications:

- BA or BS degree and three (3) years of experience in land use or natural resource planning, agriculture, local food systems, land conservation or advocacy required.
- Graduate degree in one of these areas preferred; graduate degree may substitute for one (1) year of required experience.
- Proven research ability and writing capability.
- Demonstrated success in consensus building or collaboration with multiple partners on projects or initiatives.
- Strong desire to be involved in agricultural policy and ability to carry out advocacy projects.
- Excellent verbal presentation and written communication skills.
- Experience managing a coalition and/or working with a board or steering committee a plus.
- Fundraising experience highly desirable.

Compensation:

Salary commensurate with experience and background. Full benefits package.

To Apply:

Please submit cover letter and resume by email to: Ben Bowell at bbowell@farmland.org

Position open until filled. The Search Committee will begin interviews of selected candidates the week of September 20th.

Posted: August 26, 2010