

Job Opening: Sustainable Agriculture Educator

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) anticipates hiring one or two capable and motivated individuals to serve as a Sustainable Agriculture Educators. The successful candidate(s) will join a team of bright and passionate individuals who are committed to furthering sustainable agriculture, family-scale farming, and the local food economy. Please consider applying if you have relevant experience in farmer education and sustainable and organic agriculture.

Position Summary

OEFFA's Sustainable Agriculture Educators have primary responsibility for providing direct technical assistance to organic and sustainable farmers related to production and marketing; assisting farmers in understanding and complying with organic standards, as certified producers or farmers transitioning to organic production; and provide general support and education related to sustainable agriculture.

This full-time position has an annual compensation range of \$45,000-\$52,500 per year, commensurate with experience. The position can also be negotiated as three-quarter time. Benefits include insurance (medical, dental, vision), generous paid time off, holidays, and a SIMPLE IRA retirement plan.

Essential Functions

- Provide technical assistance to organic and sustainable farmers and collaboratively problem-solve production challenges they may face and to access resources
- Utilize technical expertise to design, plan, and implement various educational programs (i.e., workshops and webinars, farm tours, etc.) focused on sustainable and organic farming
- Support farmers transitioning to organic in learning the requirements for organic certification; provide technical assistance and other resources to help position them for success as certified operators; and represent OEFFA in a variety of educational settings on the topic of transitioning to certified organic production
- Provide occasional contributions to OEFFA's publications and assist in writing grants as needed
- Assist with special events, tasks, and projects as needed
- Represent OEFFA at meetings and events, and serve as a liaison with key stakeholder organizations
- Play a key role in organizing and coordinating OEFFA's annual conference
- Provide excellent customer service and assistance to our members and constituents by ensuring information and assistance needs are met, and all communications work is handled in a professional manner

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in natural sciences, environmental education, agriculture, or related area, or an equivalent background and work history
- Experience in organic crop, livestock, and/or horticultural production
- A thorough and accurate understanding of the National Organic Program standards
- Experience working with farmers is preferred
- Experience in effectively planning, managing, and carrying out multiple tasks
- Ability to use spreadsheets and databases for tracking and analyzing information

- Ability to be flexible in scheduling work
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Passion about sustainable agriculture and organic agriculture, family farms, and rural places
- Commitment to performing work with a high degree of accountability and consistent excellence with exceptional attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively

Application process

The position(s) are opened until filled. Interested candidates are advised to apply by May 19 to receive full consideration, although the position will stay open until filled. (If this posting is removed from the OEFFA website, we are no longer accepting applications.)

Your application should be addressed to Renee Hunt, Program Director, and consists of three items: a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references (indicate relationship to you). In your cover letter please address how your experience and background meet the requirements of the position. Please combine these as a single PDF file and submit via email to jobs@oeffa.org and for the subject line use "Sustainable Agriculture Educator."

We seek to recruit, develop and retain the most talented people from a diverse candidate pool, and all employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and organizational need. In the same way that biological diversity is foundational to the healthy agricultural systems we support, we recognize that diversity of people makes OEFFA healthier and more sustainable, and thus is a core value of our organization. As part of the application, we invite candidates to describe how their life experiences enrich the diversity of our organization.

About OEFFA

OEFFA was formed in 1979 and is a tight-knit, membership-based grassroots organization, dedicated to promoting and supporting sustainable, ecological, and healthful food systems. Our members include farmers, gardeners, and conscientious eaters who committed to work together to create and promote a sustainable and healthful food and farming system.

We are attentive to the ways in which our organizational culture advances our progress towards fulfilling our mission. The nature of our work necessitates that each staff member collaborates with others and generously supports the work of colleagues and those we serve. We value individual and collective creative problem-solving, commitment to shared responsibilities, integrity, initiative, and effective communication