

Position Opportunity
Program Instructor for Sustainable Agriculture Production
Tollgate CSA Coordinator
Michigan State University Extension
Michigan State University

In concert with the Education Director and Farm Manager at the Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center and Farm in Novi, Michigan and under the direct supervision of the Director of the Greening Michigan Institute, this position is responsible for overseeing, planning, coordinating and evaluating a comprehensive agriculture education program for adults and youth through farm production activities at the MSUE Tollgate Education Center.

The MSU Tollgate Education Center is positioned to offer opportunities for Michigan residents to learn and practice sustainable agriculture. Serving as an educational resource for Extension programming, the Tollgate farm can assist in advancing regional and local food systems. This position will be responsible for creating a food production demonstration farm focused on sustainable practices and research based methods. The production farm will serve as the center for educational and extension programming, including demonstration plots for urban farms and/or school gardens, while providing approximately 50 weekly vegetable shares to a regional CSA.

Job Responsibilities:

Under direct supervision of the Director of the Greening Michigan Institute, will be responsible for day-to-day management of the vegetable production operations at the Tollgate site, including:

- Oversight and management of diversified year round vegetable production, including planning, plot preparation, tilling, growing, harvest and vegetable storage.
- Overall coordination of the Tollgate community supported agriculture program, including development and oversight of CSA budget, planning and assembly of CSA basket elements, educational newsletter to CSA members, and other activities necessary to CSA's success.
- Selection and supervision of seasonal personnel (summer interns) to assist with farm production activities.
- Contribute to appropriate Tollgate educational programs including school garden, urban farming and/or summer youth education camps/programs.
- Work with the Tollgate Education Director, Tollgate Farm Manager and other staff in coordination of budget and space logistics.
- Work with Greening Michigan Institute Director with strategic planning supporting agriculture and food systems development in Southeast Michigan.
- Collaborate with Extension personnel locally to deliver relevant programming at the farm
- Regular communication with the volunteer groups, staff, and members of the general public
- Provide leadership in the further development of the CSA site

Qualifications Required:

- B.S. or B.A. in related field
- Farming and farm management experience
 - Cold climate sustainable vegetable production: planning, execution, marketing
 - Experience using various farm equipment
 - Development and identification of markets for crops grown on-site
 - Season extension experience with high and low tunnels
 - Organic farming certification requirements
- Two years teaching/training experience (non-formal or formal)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong leadership skills
- Passion for sustainable agriculture production and education

Preferred Qualifications:

- Self-starter
- Prior experience with specialty crop farmer outreach
- Business planning experience
- Experience creating and managing a budget
- Knowledge and experience related to cold storage

How to Apply:

Please apply online at the Michigan State University jobs page at www.jobs.msu.edu. The position is listed as follows on the jobs page under the MSU Extension tab:

Program Instructor – Tollgate Sustainable Agriculture Program
Posting number: 2543

Application deadline is Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

Applicants should include the names and contact information, including email addresses, of four professional references with the cover letter.

Questions about the Position?

Please contact Dr. David Ivan, Director, MSUE Greening Michigan Institute: ivand@msu.edu or Gina Flores, MSUE Unit HR Administrator: flores35@anr.msu.edu