

Assistant Farm Manager

The Piney Woods School is seeking an innovative individual with the energy and passion to serve as Assistant Farm Manager. The successful candidate will appreciate and embrace the school's history, mission and values, but will also be committed to creating new possibilities for the school that will help to guarantee a strong and vibrant future.

The Piney Woods School is an independent private boarding school located 20 miles south of Jackson, Mississippi. The Assistant Farm Manager will work in partnership with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) to develop and maintain sustainable gardens on the Piney Woods campus. NCAT is a nonprofit corporation that champions small-scale, local, and sustainable solutions to reduce poverty, promote healthy communities, and protect natural resources.

This is an exciting opportunity for a motivated, enthusiastic individual to grow and manage a small scale demonstration farm and to share their knowledge with young people, community members, and other farmers in the region. This fulltime position requires a strong, practical knowledge of sustainable agricultural skills and farm management, and a passionate commitment to providing specific foods for improved public health. The manager has primary responsibility for the planning, coordination and implementation of all work and activities at the Piney Woods Demonstration Farm. The land has several acres available for horticulture production, as well as 120 acres available for grazing and animal husbandry.

Any prior experience or knowledge of farm to school programs or working with diverse high school aged students is a plus.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Grow chemical-free vegetables, fruits, and herbs for the school dining hall. Tasks will include, but are not limited to, crop planning, weed and pest management, soil preparation, seeding, transplanting, harvesting, watering

- Coordinate student volunteers to assist with farm tasks
- Prepare and manage grant reports as needed
- Work with Dining Hall staff to create healthy meal plans and periodic "taste tests" utilizing farm produce
- Teach at least one class in sustainable agriculture or agri-business
- Participate in planning for long-term farm development
- Build and maintain effective working relationships with agricultural related groups, agencies, and organizations
- Assist with workshops and other trainings on the farm
- Speak to students and public groups that visit the farm for educational field days

QUALIFICATIONS:

- B.S. in Agronomy, Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Science, or any related field and three years of professional experience in horticulture-related field or equivalent, including on-farm experience
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively using oral, written, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work in the field and office including hard repetitive physical work
- Current driver's license and a clean driving record
- Ability to comfortably operate farm equipment
- Teaching experience or demonstrated ability to work with young people
- Supplemental experience and interest in other agri-enterprises such as beekeeping, fish-farming, livestock, value-added products, etc. are desirable but not required.