

# Hope Farms Farm Manager

## Position Description and Responsibilities



**Position Title:** Farm Manager

**Start Date:** Summer 2017

### **Hope Farms Background:**

Hope Farms is a 7.5-acre urban farm dedicated to improving community health by providing direct access to healthy and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables. Located in the Sunnyside neighborhood of Houston, Texas, the farm will serve as a valuable resource for local residents and the city at large by providing access to fresh produce, nutrition education programs and job training for military veterans.

For the past 10 years, the Recipe for Success Foundation has been on the front lines of the childhood obesity epidemic by creating positive, hands-on experiences in the garden and culinary classrooms for over 30,000 school students. Available nationally, our Seed-to-Plate Nutrition Education™ program serves as a vehicle for powerful food-based learning experiences that incorporate science, math, history, poetry and art and ultimately culminate in changing the way kids eat. Beyond the classroom, the Foundation produces a variety of other programs to promote a culture where nutritious food is shared, appreciated and celebrated, including the VegOut! Challenge, Farmers MarKIDS and Eat It! Food Adventures book series.

In operation since December 2016, Hope Farms serves as a complementary and critical layer to expand Recipe for Success Foundation's mission and address community health in a powerful and new way. The farm uses intensive, organic methods to generate significant food crops in the midst of one of Houston's recognized "food deserts." Incorporating the Rolling Green Market and the Veteran Farmer Training program, Hope Farms is the foundation of the future Hope Farms Co-op that will facilitate, promote and support a network of small urban growers to serve the broader market.

### **Overview of Farm Manager Role:**

The Farm Manager role is a truly dynamic position that will be fundamentally critical in the success and development of the farm. Working directly with the Chief Agricultural Officer, this position will help build and develop the farm from the ground up and will serve an integral role in planning and executing food production on-site. This individual will be involved in all aspects of the farm, including: planting and maintenance of sustainable and organic vegetable production; community engagement and education; teaching and mentoring veterans in the farmer training program; and establishing a farming model for long-term success.

A more detailed look at the key qualifications and responsibilities (which include but are not limited to):

#### *Food Production:*

- + A strong background (minimum 2 years experience) and in-depth knowledge of organic and sustainable agriculture methods and techniques. Hope Farms seeks to utilize small scale, intensive growing methods to maximize and optimize production of fruits and vegetables on the urban farm. Knowledge and experience working with permaculture techniques is ideal, as well as a strong desire to continuously improve the farm as a healthy and productive eco-system for all living things.
- + Manage all aspects of day-to-day operations of a year round diversified vegetable farm, including planting; cultivation; pest, disease and weed management; irrigation; harvest and post-harvest handling; quality control; sales and distribution.

- + Mechanical knowledge and skills in operating and maintaining various farm equipment (including sub-compact tractor).
- + Assisting with the production components and general management of an on-site farm stand, CSA program, restaurant and farmers' market sales and deliveries. Additionally, building and developing relationships with local chefs and other retail and wholesale partners.
- + A high level of understanding of computer programs and other technology as it relates to bookkeeping and maintaining records (excel, database, log books, calendar, email) in support of production, budget, sales and educational components of the farm.
- + Previous experience and/or strong interest to raise poultry for egg production and maintain bee hives for honey production, in addition to general ecosystem benefits.
- + Knowledge and experience of growing food in southeastern Texas is ideal but not required.

#### *Health and Food Access:*

- + A passion and fundamental belief in the importance of food access and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. Obesity and other diet-related illnesses are ravaging communities and impact not only overall quality of life but also the vitality and health of the social and economic systems. Access to affordable produce can play a critical role in transforming the health and well-being of children, adults and society at large.
- + A deep belief and understanding in the power of food and community as the tenets to physical, emotional and spiritual health.

#### *Community and Relationship Building:*

- + Hope Farms will be an integral component of the local community. Cultivating positive and healthy relationships will be fundamental to the success of the farm. The Farm Manager will be engaging and interacting with a broad range and diversity of individuals on a consistent daily basis. From local community members, visiting school groups, Foundation volunteers, veterans and others individuals, the Farm Manager will need to possess strong communication skills and the ability to be inspiring, open, honest and understanding with people from multiple backgrounds, experiences and a broad range of ages.

#### *The Role as an Educator:*

- + A strong ability and desire to teach others the fundamentals and core techniques of how to grow food. The Farm Manager will play a critical role in the Farmer Training program, which will require the ability to organize, manage and supervise daily educational farm tasks and growing duties, in addition to leading classroom work that will focus on farming techniques, philosophies, and small-business management practices, such as direct marketing, CSA implementation, budget management and other business realms.
- + The ability to create and facilitate engaging experiences around agriculture for various community and school groups.

*Other Qualities:*

- + Be guided by the vision and mission of the Recipe for Success Foundation and work under the supervision of the Chief Agricultural Officer, in addition to collaborating with other members of the Recipe for Success team.
- + A commitment and desire to serve others and do positive work in the world. Additionally, being a kind and compassionate human with the personal characteristics and qualities of patience, openness, strong communication, understanding of oneself, and ability to truly listen to others.
- + A strong, self-motivated work ethic with the ability and desire to work independently as well in close physical, mental and emotional proximity with others.
- + A dedication, understanding and appreciation of Quality.
- + A valid driver's license and sound driving record.

**Compensation and Benefits:**

The Farm Manager is a full-time, salaried position (depending on experience), with health insurance, paid vacation and holidays.

**To Apply:**

Please send resume and cover letter to [Justin@Recipe4Success.org](mailto:Justin@Recipe4Success.org).

For additional information on the Recipe for Success Foundation, please visit our website at [www.Recipe4Success.org](http://www.Recipe4Success.org).