



**Job Title: SAgE Program Farmland Steward**

**Date Posted:** 7/19/2024

**Summary:** The Foodshed Alliance is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen sustainable farming, increase access to local, healthy food, and protect the environment for all members of our communities. The organization’s Sustainable Agriculture Enterprise (SAgE) Program facilitates long-term, affordable land access opportunities to farmers in New Jersey. The mission of SAgE is to increase and diversify the number of organic farmers in New Jersey, while simultaneously transitioning NJ’s beautiful farmland into more regenerative practices. Currently, there are 13 farm businesses in the program at three different locations in Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon Counties.

The SAgE Program Farmland Steward will oversee construction, procurement and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure and hard assets at SAgE locations. In addition, the Farmland Steward will support the Program Coordinator in maintaining program farmer relationships, supporting their business viability, and monitoring agricultural practices. This position will be responsible for maintaining common areas around each farm, shared infrastructure, and shared equipment, as well as the implementation and management of organic farming demonstration plots.

**Reports To:** Executive Director & SAgE Program Coordinator

**Status:** Full-time, 40 hours a week, exempt position. This position is in-person, onsite, at several designated work locations. Some work may be performed remotely. A valid driver’s license and a reliable vehicle is required.

**Compensation:** \$42,000/yr.

**Benefits:** Monthly benefit for healthcare costs, generous Paid Time Off policy.

**To apply:** Please email resume and cover letter to Kendrya Close at [Kendrya@foodshedalliance.org](mailto:Kendrya@foodshedalliance.org) (preferred) or mail to Foodshed Alliance, P.O. Box 53, Hope, NJ 07844.

**Job Responsibilities:**

**Construction:** The Foodshed Alliance has USDA-funded grants to construct agricultural infrastructure at its SAgE sites in Sussex County (Andover) and in Hunterdon County (Sergeantsville). The SAgE Program Farmland Steward will:

- Executive Director and Operations/Grants Director to coordinate the construction projects in Andover and Sergeantsville.

- Coordinate the design, procurement and installation of Sussex SAgE infrastructure components, including the barn, wash-and-pack station, cold storage, and renovation to an existing storage garage.
- Coordinate the design, procurement and installation of Hunterdon SAgE infrastructure components, including irrigation, wash-and-pack station, cold storage.
- Monitor and coordinate tasks, actions, and communications between FA staff and construction professionals, including architect, engineer, attorney, government agencies.
- Work with Operations/Grants Director on procurement and expense management processes.
- Work with Operations/Grants Director and Project Evaluator to collect data to report progress to project funders.

### **SAgE Farm Management**

- Work with the SAgE Program Coordinator to maintain common areas and shared infrastructure at all program farm locations ensuring a well-managed appearance.
- Coordinate shared equipment program among SAgE farmers, maintains shared farm equipment (currently BCS two-wheel tractor & implements), handling upkeep, coordination and transportation between locations, and record keeping.
- Assist in planning and implementing field demonstrations and workshops on climate-friendly farming practices.

### **SAgE Program Support**

- Support program development and expansion by assisting Program Coordinator and SAgE Committee members by reviewing program applications and providing thoughtful feedback.
- Work with SAgE farmers to maintain relationships and communication, check-in on status of their fields, support their practices and assist when needed, and monitor for adherence to program standards.
- Participate in staff meetings, committee meetings, networking events, and other internal or external organizational opportunities, as needed.

### **Qualifications:**

- Project Management experience; specifically, construction experience preferred.
- Significant experience in farm work; management experience strongly preferred.
- Experience and passion for sustainable agriculture, climate-smart/regenerative/organic/biodynamic practices.
- Experience with and knowledge of irrigation systems.
- Demonstrated understanding of organic farm businesses and management.
- Commitment to continuing learning about field application of climate-smart practices, organic, biodynamic, permaculture, regenerative practices, farm business viability, etc.
- Basic carpentry, equipment maintenance, and small engine repair skills preferred.
- Excellent communication skills both verbally and in writing; open, direct, honest, & respectful communication is necessary to carry out responsibilities.
- Able to work long hours outside in varied weather conditions and able to carry and move field supplies across diverse and uneven terrain.

- Ability to communicate effectively using a variety of methods and technology such as cloud-based communication platforms
- Comfortable working independently, highly self-motivated, with a strong ability to prioritize tasks, meet deadlines, and work with minimal supervision.
- Valid driver's license and personal vehicle, or access to independent transportation required. (Proof of insurance required).
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and the organization's goals to advance these initiatives throughout programming.

This position requires interaction with many different stakeholders. As ambassadors for the Foodshed Alliance, team members treat all parties with dignity and respect to maintain a community of openness and inclusivity.

This description contains the information and facts considered necessary to describe and evaluate the duties of this position fairly and equitably. It should not be considered an exhaustive description of all the work requirements to be performed, but indicates the kinds of duties and levels of responsibility required by the position. The Executive Director or his/her designee will have the prerogative of adding or deleting responsibilities as circumstances may require.

Foodshed Alliance is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, class, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, family/marital status, religion or other protected classes. We strongly encourage applications from marginalized communities. If you require assistance applying to this opportunity, please contact [kendrya@foodshedalliance.org](mailto:kendrya@foodshedalliance.org)