

Apprentice —Lexington Community Farm—Lexington, MA

About the farm:

Lexington Community Farm Coalition, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (LexFarm), was founded in 2011 by community members to protect one of the few remaining farms in Lexington, MA. LexFarm grows certified-organic food with sustainable farming practices, connects and educates community members, and provides fresh produce to all including those in need.

LexFarm grows on roughly 5 acres of land that has been farmed continuously for hundreds of years. Our goal is to improve the land we grow on, while providing food for our community. We sell directly to community members with a CSA program that distributes vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and, new this year, fruit. In addition, we grow and sell thousands of organic vegetable and flower starts for local gardeners.

The farm is a model for responsible land and soil stewardship, a place for fresh local organic produce and for community connection. We are committed to increasing access to certified organic produce for households of all income levels. We donate seedlings and produce to local food rescue and community organizations.

Job Description:

Apprentices will work closely with farm staff, work shares, and volunteers to complete seedling production, planting, harvesting, washing and packing, irrigation, cultivation, record-keeping, and farm maintenance tasks.

Farm leadership gives staff the education they need to succeed and take ownership of tasks. Each time a new task is introduced, farm leadership will give staff sufficient background to fully understand the reasoning behind the task. All apprentices will be responsible for leading various volunteer groups throughout the week.

Each of the three apprentices will be responsible for one of the following areas of farming. Training, resources, and support from the Field Manager will be provided.

- Irrigation
- Direct Seeding and Fertilizing
- Pest Management

*other areas of responsibility can be considered, as individual interest dictates

Hours (start and end dates may vary for the right candidate):

40 hours/week May 3rd-September 2nd or September 29th. Monday-Friday. Hours vary throughout the season but are generally: 7:30-3:30 with a 45 minute paid lunch break. Wednesday's schedule may be adjusted if the apprentice would like to attend EMASS CRAFT trainings. Each apprentice will run a volunteer group on one or two Saturdays within the season. Apprentices will also gain some retail experience working in our farm stand.

The right candidate will be interested in sustainable agriculture, self-motivated, quick, responsible, attentive to detail, curious, flexible, and comfortable communicating with a wide variety of people. This position involves working both independently and with a group.

Requirements:

- A minimum of one season's work outdoors, agriculture experience preferred, but not required
- A positive attitude and good sense of humor
- Willingness to work in all weather conditions
- Demonstrated ability to follow directions and work independently
- Good physical condition and ability to lift and carry 50 pounds repeatedly and safely
- Punctuality. All staff are expected to be ready to start work when the work day begins.

Benefits include: compensation at \$16.50/hour, a Summer CSA share, PYO flower share, discount on local products in the farm stand, Worker's Compensation, and paid holidays.

To apply please send your resume, cover letter and 2 professional references to Allison at employment@lexfarm.org

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, religion, or sex including sexual orientation and gender identity, national origin, disability, protected Veteran Status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.