

Summer Farm Education/Agriculture Intern at LexFarm

Interested in sustainable farming AND education? Join our team for a summer of farm-based learning and discovery at LexFarm!



Job Title: Summer Farm Education/Agriculture Intern

Reports to: Education Director and Farm Manager

Hours: 35 hours/week, 8:30-3:30 Monday-Friday

Position Period: June 17- Aug 19*

Pay Rate: \$17-19/hr depending on experience

***No education programming week of 7/1. Option to work with the Agriculture team for the week or to take that week off (unpaid).**

About LexFarm:

Lexington Community Farm Coalition, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, (LexFarm) was founded in 2011 by community members to preserve one of the few remaining farms in Lexington, MA. Since 2011, LexFarm has become a model for small-scale organic farming and land stewardship, as well as nature-based education. Our mission is to grow certified-organic food while engaging our community around issues of sustainability, local food systems and food access. We are committed to providing

organic produce to households of all income levels through our SNAP-match program, discounted CSAs, and our partnerships with local food rescue and distribution organizations. Additionally we provide dynamic youth and community education programs focused on sustainable growing, local food systems, and nature-based learning.

About LexFarm Youth Education:

LexFarm education offers many opportunities for hands-on learning and play in a beautiful farm setting. Based in the LexFarm learning garden, our classes expose children to all aspects of the growing cycle: prepping, planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. We explore wildlife at the Arlington reservoir and care for the animals at neighboring Silk Fields Farm (chickens, sheep, goats and alpacas!). With each new group of children our goal as educators is to nurture a sense of community, interconnectivity and respect for the natural world. Our mission is to:

- Deepen children and families' connection to nature
- Foster sense of comfort in the outdoors
- Support curiosity, perseverance and risk-taking
- Develop respect for the earth and earth's creatures
- Share knowledge of food systems and how food grows
- Build sense of community, belonging and mutual respect

Job Responsibilities:

For 10 weeks, the Summer Farm Education Intern will split their time between our education and agriculture teams, working approximately 70% in education and 30% in agriculture. The intern will generally work from 8:30-12:30pm in our youth programs and 1:15- 3:30pm in the farm fields with our farmers and farm apprentices, with a paid, social lunch break between. Our youth programs consist of weekly morning programs. Each week the group of students changes, and some weeks are geared toward ages 4-6 while others are for ages 6-10. While teaching in our youth programs, the intern gain a foundation in nature-based education, learn strategies for group management as well as for meeting diverse individual student needs. Throughout the summer they will take on increasing leadership, starting in an observing/support role with the education director acting as lead teacher, and taking on more responsibility and co-teaching with each subsequent week, ultimately taking on some weeks as lead teacher as they become comfortable.

Working with our agriculture team in the afternoons, interns will learn about organic low-till farming practices while helping to complete tasks such as: planting, harvesting, washing/packing, weeding, and irrigation. This is an active and 100% outdoor position.

Job responsibilities:

1. Create and maintain a healthy and safe environment for children.
2. Foster inclusive, collaborative, and supportive community with students, co-workers and student families.
3. Meet weekly with education director to reflect on practice and plan for week ahead.
4. Meet as needed with farm manager to train for weekly tasks.
5. Attend paid safety training at start of summer as well as training on interacting with the farm animals with children.

Desired Experience/Skills:

- Experience working with children, ideally preschool or elementary ages.
- Passionate about environmental issues and connecting children with nature.
- Knowledge of early child development and different learning styles.
- Eagerness to learn and ability to be proactive.
- Strong communication skills and ability to collaborate.
- Willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions and engage in physically-demanding manual labor tasks.
- Experience working on farms or in other outdoor settings and/or with animals is a plus.
- Punctuality. All staff are expected to be ready to start work promptly when the work day begins.

Benefits Include: compensation at \$18.50/hour, a half-summer vegetable share (box of organic veggies every other week throughout internship and access to extra vegetables when available), 25% discount on local products in the farm stand, free admission to farm's summer workshops and events.

Non-discrimination Statement

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.

To Apply:

Send a resume and brief email describing your experience and qualifications to our education director, Rachel Curtin, at rachel@lexfarm.org. Applications are received on a rolling basis and we plan to fill the position by mid-February.