

Opportunity for seasonal grower at Wellington Community Food

CSA

Summary

Exciting opportunity for a seasonal grower to help develop our CSA Community Farm in the heart of Wellington, Somerset. The Community Farm is part of the 63ac Wellington Green Corridor which aims to promote local food, nature and active living. We are seeking applications from a grower with the skills to work with farm members and volunteers to manage our market garden, we currently have 2.5 acres of growing beds within this unique community project. We are seeking a grower to start February 2024 until end of October 2024. We welcome applicants interested in working up to 4 days per week, job share and part-time applicants welcome. We hope to increase this to a permanent position in future years subject to the success of the project. The grower should have a commitment to CSA values, a passion for local food systems, and an interest in the health and well-being benefits of food and growing.

To apply, please email Adam Lockyear: info@wellingtoncommunityfood.org.uk with a covering letter outlining your interest and experience and CV by 17:00 on Friday 29th December, early applications welcome. If you would like to discuss the project further or visit the site please contact us on the email above.

About the Farm:

Wellington Community Food (WCF) has successfully completed it's first seasons harvest supplying 18 cropshare members with a weekly veg box since June. Our community farm is located in the heart of Wellington, Somerset. Our ambition is to increase output to supply 60 members in 2024. We are a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme, working with our local community and schools to strengthen the food culture of the town and supply affordable responsibly grown veg and fruit as well as providing a unique education resource for the town.

As the main grower you will have the opportunity to shape our sowing and cropping plan, based on a 7-year rotation, using organic principles and minimising soil disturbance to promote healthy biodiverse growing areas that also includes habitats for beneficial insects as part of our Integrated Pest Management approach. We plan to start erecting polytunnels in 2024, experience of polytunnel growing managing irrigation, ventilation and pest control is desirable but training and support will be provided where necessary in all aspects of the growing operation.

Our long term aim is to develop the farm business to support a permanent grower role through increasing the diversity of activity on the farm and to eventually provide a year round supply of produce to our members. You will be involved in working with the board of WCF to implement the business plan (available on our website) and source the machinery and equipment required and also to develop the farm infrastructure including barns, polytunnels, tracks and irrigation systems with contractors and volunteers.

We have a growing list of volunteers keen to participate in farm activity and we host volunteer sessions throughout the week as well as other community participation events. This is an exciting role for a grower looking to take a leading role in developing our new CSA in the heart of a market town, the farm has 16,000 residents within 1.5km and there are three schools and a nursery as immediate neighbours making it a fantastic site for educational activities which this role will help to deliver with support.

Find out more at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonCommunityFood>

www.wellingtoncommunityfood.org.uk

Responsibilities

- Work with the board and volunteers to develop a cropping plan for the farm to establish a seven year rotation. Crop planning will include, seed purchasing and identifying appropriate no-dig and min-till cultivation techniques;
- Attend to all aspects of care for the land and the production of crops, including soil preparation, sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting, pest and disease management, compost production and mechanisation;
- Work with the directors and volunteers to provide weekly shares from May until October to the community members;
- Carry out other work such as infrastructural work and general maintenance;
- Work with volunteers to develop specific areas of responsibility to encourage ownership of aspects of the growing amongst regular and experienced volunteers;
- Work regular days during the week, and on evenings/weekends on a rota basis and at events/socials.
- Arrange the activities for the work parties, and manage volunteers appropriately;

Experience and Skills

Essential

- Highly committed team-player
- Well organised, good time-management and attentive to detail
- Experience of working on a farm, smallholding or plant nursery
- Able to do repetitive physical work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Passionate for growing and being part of a community farm

A confident, friendly and welcoming manner when dealing with people is very important at WCF, as the farm will frequently host school visits, community groups and members on collection days, socials and work parties.

Desirable

- Experience of organic growing, polytunnel growing
- Experience with farm machinery



- Experience working alongside and managing volunteers

We are seeking a suitable candidate to start in February 2024, working 30 hours a week on agreed week days with some weekend and evening working agreed in advance on a rota basis. We welcome job shares or part-time applications. Pay dependent on experience, applicants interested in working on a self-employed basis are welcome.

Initially seasonal position February to end of October 2024

Hours 30 p/w - Job shares and Part Time applicants welcome. Pay based on experience

Please send a CV and covering letter outlining your experience relevant to the role described above and your vision for Community Supported Agriculture to info@wellingtoncommunityfood.org.uk

Closing date 29th December, early applications welcome. Please contact us if you would like to visit the site.