



## **BARN FARMER TEACHER JOB DESCRIPTION**

Youth are at the heart of all our work at The Farm School. Our Program for Visiting Schools is the centerpiece of The Farm School. Each school year, over 1,500 students come to help us care for our farm during 3-day visits. The students come with their classes, in groups of up to 40 children at once.

The Barn Farmer Teachers work as part of the animal care team responsible for the year round care of all of our livestock, and for centering youth engagement in all of that work. Barn staff lead youth through every aspect of livestock work and serve as a vital connection point between visiting youth and the livestock on the farm. They answer questions, set an example of appropriate livestock interaction, and execute the work that sustains a safe and caring livestock program on the farm. This role is well suited for those that can engage small groups of youth in the moment at hand, have a sense of playfulness, can balance having a clear direction while maintaining flexibility on how to get there, and can be responsible, clear and collaborative. This role is also well suited for someone who can work in many different weather conditions and can be flexible to pivot workload depending on the needs of the farm and the youth. Experience working with hand tools like saws and drills, some experience working with shop tools. Some experience operating tractors, weed-whackers and chain-saws and working with livestock would be a plus.

All TFS livestock are raised for either work or food production, and Barn staff must be comfortable with the full spectrum of livestock work. This includes hands-on veterinary support, support of the loading of animals for transport, and recognition of the facts of livestock slaughter. This work also requires a desire to work closely with animals that produce the meat, eggs, milk and compost used on the farm and for our partner communities, and a commitment to treating our animals and land with respect and care and to provide timely care to sick and injured animals. The Barn staff shares responsibility for our livestock, but each livestock enterprise has a direct manager focussed on their upkeep. Interest in growing into this type of responsibility for one or more enterprises is vital. We operate a small dairy, a flock of laying hens, seasonal pigs, a small herd of meat goats/lambs, a creamery to bottle milk, and a small beef herd.

A Barn Farmer Teacher is also part of the larger Program for Visiting Schools community, and will have responsibilities in the larger program in addition to those that are livestock specific. These responsibilities will demand flexibility, comfort with multiple transitions throughout the day, and will require being solutions oriented and responsive to the ebb and flow of farming and youth work.

### **Core Role Responsibilities**

- Work as a member of the Barn team under the direction of the Livestock Coordinator to sustain livestock operations for both programming and production. Work as a member of the PVS staff under the direction of the PVS Program Director to deliver quality year-round youth programming.
- Serve as the main access point for youth interaction with our livestock: patient, welcoming, responsive.
- To organize your work in ways that prioritizes youths ability to engage in work area tasks.
- To organize your work area in ways that uplift the FS mission and goals towards Racial Equity.
- To be reliable in meeting your scheduled commitments and in your communication when changes or support is needed.
- Respond to slack, email communications in a timely manner.
- Participate in weekly programmatic activities including options, class, chores, dish clean up, bunkhouse clean up, evening activities, community meetings, opening circles, closing circles and all other programming responsibilities required.

### **Interpersonal skills**

- Kindness: a team player with a genuine enthusiasm for sharing things you love with youth
- Reliability: have the ability to work within a schedule that has multiple transitions and independently keep track of your shifting daily responsibilities
- Flexibility: operating within a shifting schedule, pivoting as farm/youth needs arise to best host the group and take care of the land
- Communication: the ability to communicate effectively with co-workers, coordinators, directors and work area team.
- Collaboration: Ability to work with others and to participate in meetings at the start and end of each week.

### **Community Based Responsibilities**

- To be kind, gracious, open hearted and flexible to both staff and youth on the land.
- Participate in a rotation of weekend greenhouse and animal chores across the farm, upkeep of farm facilities and co-worker shared spaces
- Participate in vacation work week activities for your work area and group work projects that fall outside of your specific work area
- Participate in weekly staff meetings and all staff meetings
- Participate in facilitation and preparation of FS fundraising and community events
- Participate in all hands on deck activities like harvest, sap collection, bringing in the hay, fundraising events and Chicken Coop Middle School farm life support.

### **HR Based Responsibilities**

- Remain current on CPR/First Aid and Food Safety certifications in collaboration with the Program Director
- Participate in feedback, check-ins and reviews as scheduled and read the FS Handbook

### **Timing of job:**

Immediate opening: This is a year-long full time position with a 3 month provisional period to ensure fit and ability for continuation in the role. For 9 months of the year, from February to November your schedule can begin as early as 6:15 and end as late as 7:30 pm. December and January schedules are more reduced. Farmer teachers are able to take vacations during the months of December, January, February, June and August.

In addition to your particular position, the unpredictable nature of farming/working with youth and our shared responsibility for the care of the farm requires that all employees engage in the process of meeting the needs of the farm/program- gardens, fields, forest, barns, bunkhouses, kitchens etc. in ways that may fall outside of the timing indicated above. As needs arise, do so in communication with your Program Director, Coordinators and fellow farmer/teachers.

**Compensation/benefits:**

- Starting salary \$38,000
- Employer Paid Health Insurance coverage/contribution (employee paid dental option)
- Relocation Benefits (up to \$1000)
- Professional development funds
- 6 days sick time
- 6 weeks of paid vacation annually (to be taken during designated blocks of non-program)
- On-site housing provided (as available)
- 3 meals and 2 snacks a day during our programs (prepared by our talented nourishment team)
- Farm School produced food, including eggs, meat, milk, veggies, herbs, bread and maple syrup!

**To apply for this position please send a cover letter and resume to [jobs@farmschool.org](mailto:jobs@farmschool.org) Place Barn Farmer Teacher and your last name in the subject line of your email.**

This is not necessarily an all-inclusive list of job-related responsibilities, duties, skills, efforts, requirements or working conditions. While the above is intended to be an accurate reflection of the current job, management reserves the right to revise the job or to require that other or different tasks be performed as assigned.

*We serve diverse communities of students and we are striving to develop a staff that reflects that. We encourage all qualified candidates to apply to our open positions. The Farm School does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin in any of its school administered policies or programs.*