



**Position Title:** FARM ASSISTANT

**Employment terms:** This is a part-time, seasonal position, 10 hours/week May – October 2022.

**Supervision** is provided by the Incubator Farm Manager.

Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming is a farm education nonprofit based in Ithaca, NY, serving the broader Finger Lakes area. Our core work is to foster a diverse next generation of small-scale sustainable farmers and land cultivators by lessening common barriers to land access, resources and business ownership.

This position primarily supports the production aspirations of farmers enrolled in the Groundswell Farm Business Incubator Program by working closely with Incubator Farm Manager and by maintaining the Incubator Farm site. The Incubator program provides affordable access to land, agricultural infrastructure, and business support for diverse beginning farmers including New Americans, refugees, BIPOC (Black, Indigenou and People of Color), and those with limited resources.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

#### **A. Site and Land Maintenance**

- Help maintain and develop physical infrastructure (fencing, cooler, irrigation, shed, wash station) and equipment and supplies (BCS, tractor, weed whacker, hand tools, etc.) including purchasing materials, basic plumbing (training provided).
- Perform site and prep work to support participants cultivating healthy, certifiably-organic farmland, including safe operation of tractors and implements for field work and activities related to the operation of participant farmer enterprises in field and high tunnels.
- Identify and assist to implement site improvements that enhance aesthetics, learning opportunities for visitors and enhance soil health and increase biodiversity of pollinators.
- Assist to identify infrastructure needs for the Incubator program and support building/design projects.

### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Desired**

- Lived experience and/or passion to work with beginning farmers from BIPOC and refugee communities
- Hands-on vegetable farming experience including high tunnel production, cover cropping and organic pest management preferred

- Experience with using equipment such as: mowers, rototillers, and tractors
- Familiarity with carpentry is a plus
- Ability to juggle multiple tasks, deadlines and attention to detail
- Demonstrated ability to follow directions, work effectively and efficiently without close supervision
- Proficiency in Word and email communications

**Special Requirements:** This position requires flexible hours, occasionally including evenings and one weekend morning to match the farming schedule of Incubator participants, but flexible. Must possess a valid driver's license and have regular access to transportation to the Farm, an ability to lift 50 pounds, experience safely using hand and power tools, farm equipment and machinery, comfort with basic plumbing work.

**Salary & Benefits:** \$20/hour. Health benefits are not available for this position.

**Minimum Formal Education:** none

**To apply:** Please email a cover letter and resume as attachment to [juliana@GroundswellCenter.org](mailto:juliana@GroundswellCenter.org) with "Farm Assistant Application" in the subject line.

**Application Deadline:** April 22, 2022

**Position Start Date:** Ideally May 2022