

Warren Wilson College

Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Farm Manager

DEPARTMENT: Farm

REPORTS TO: Dean of Work

POSITION SUMMARY:

Manages and directs the agricultural production, marketing, and outreach for the 275 acre College Farm, a diverse mixed crop and livestock farm featuring beef, swine, and poultry, and home dairy, as well as corn, alfalfa, cereal grains, and permanent pasture. Supervises one professional Assistant Manager and the 25 person student work crew including coordinating the farm's educational roles within the Work Program as well as appropriate agriculture related academic majors. Directs the (over \$120k) budget, the marketing and business management of the farm, record keeping and the repair and maintenance of a full line of equipment and farming infrastructure.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Determines agriculture activities to be performed in support of the College mission. Performs crop and livestock management actions in a timely manner, practicing sound crop and livestock husbandry with the goal to minimize environmental impact.
2. Responsible for training, supervision and evaluation of a 25 plus member student work crew in all aspects of farm production and marketing.
3. Works with Conservation/Extension personnel to find best management practices for our situation utilizing state and federal cost-share funding where applicable, and maintaining close relations with the western North Carolina farming community.
4. Performs veterinary work on the farm's cattle and swine; teaches students about veterinary choices in farm situations; works with outside vets when necessary.
5. Operates and maintains a full line of farm tractors as well as tillage, planting, and harvesting equipment; makes purchases, repairs, and modifications when necessary; maintains a well stocked shop for repairs, including spare parts, manuals, welders, teaching aids, etc.
6. Supervises the maintenance and repair of facilities involved in farming operations such as buildings and fences. Coordinates work with appropriate Facilities Management crew supervisors as necessary; keeps the farm looking attractive and well organized.
7. Directs and takes responsibility for the marketing of the farm's naturally raised meats; manages the customer data base and mailing lists; organizes sales to staff and students on campus.
8. Meets regularly with the farm staff.
9. Cultivates the College's ties with alumni, the surrounding community, and its current and potential friends.

10. Investigates and experiments with a wide range of agricultural methods to find practices that are environmentally and economically sustainable.
11. Works with staff/students in active experimentation and in other research and collaboration with academic programs; directs the coordination between academic departments and the farm staff regarding educational opportunities for students.
12. Observes safety standards and procedures as required by OSHA and Warren Wilson College; takes proactive approach to safety.
13. Works with the Dean of Work to ensure all operational costs are kept within budget; manages the farm to maximize sales est. (est. \$150k fy 04/05) while keeping costs under control.
14. Manages the farm as a model of sustainable practices that other farms in the surrounding region can use as best fits their own operations; shares knowledge gained with others in the agricultural community by other membership in area farming organizations, occasional talks and presentations, etc.
15. Builds and maintains a Farm Library of books and periodicals relevant to Warren Wilson College Farm and sustainable agriculture in general. Occasionally publishes relevant “readers” to crew members. Cultivates student interest in learning some of the complexities of an ecologically oriented approach to farm management.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

1. Indoor and outdoor in all weather conditions.
2. Frequent irregular working hours.
3. Occasional hazardous working conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Bachelor’s degree is required as a minimum, preferably with advanced coursework in plant, animal, and/or soil sciences.
2. Minimum five years experience in the management of diverse crop and livestock farms in advanced educational settings. Strong skills required in the safe operation and repair of farm equipment, and the ability to teach
3. Required to live on or within 5 miles of campus.
4. Knowledge as an educator with commitment and demonstrated ability to work with students and encourage active participation.
5. Knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety procedures.