

Job Title:	Farm Lead	Exempt:	No
Department:	Farm Operations	Travel Required:	Occasionally
Reports to:	Operations Manager	Position Type	40 Hrs.
Hourly Wage	\$16.00	PTO	Yes
Housing	Yes Shared Included		

The Ecology School is seeking a hard-working person with experience in farming operations to manage our full-scale agroecology farm at its campus, River Bend Farm, in Saco, Maine. River Bend Farm is a 105-acre property that has been redesigned by The Ecology School to support environmental education and leadership. The Ecology School is a non-profit organization that inspires stewardship of and connection to the natural world through experiential learning in ecology, conservation, farming, and sustainability.

Job Summary

The Farm Lead will oversee all aspects of River Bend Farm’s farming operations. The position will ensure day-to-day tasks are complete, supervise the Farm Assistant, and work in collaboration with The Ecology School staff to drive the vision of the farm and campus forward. The Farm Lead will receive training from our experienced Farming Consultant and get hands-on experience in all aspects involved in running the farm operation.

Farming Operations

The Farm Lead will coordinate with The Ecology School’s Operations Manager and the Farming Consultant in planning farm production schedules, growing crops (fruits and vegetables), managing fields (mowing), and processing and delivering crops to The Ecology School’s own kitchen as well as local partners.

This position will receive hands-on and operational training from River Bend Farm’s current Farming Consultant. Specifically, training will be in: greenhouse operations, seedling management (seeding, potting up, watering, hardening off), transplanting, soil amending, weeding/ cultivating, harvesting, washing, packing, processing, pruning, organic pest and disease management, operating farm equipment, building critical systems and infrastructure, and other miscellaneous farm tasks.

Permaculture Campus

River Bend Farm is in the early stages of building—in addition to the agroecology farm—a permaculture campus. The Farm Lead will have the opportunity to be involved in planning permaculture landscape around the buildings and walkways on The Ecology School’s campus. The position will plant perennial crops including flowers, herbs, berries, and fruit and nut trees.

Additional Responsibilities

- Manages barn maintenance.
- Provides high quality care for farm animal.
- Supervise and train seasonal farm workers comprised of farmers, interns, volunteers & WOOFers.

- Manages farm equipment including basic repair and routine maintenance to ensure the safety and continued quality of all farm systems and equipment.
- Works closely and collaboratively with other departments at The Ecology School as needed.
- Responsible for safe operation and maintenance of mechanical and non-mechanical equipment, and training others in the safe operation of such equipment.
- Manages the farm budget on an annual basis.

Skills Desired

The Ecology School seeks an individual who is excited about farming and all that comes with it!

- Must have farming experience.
- Ability to consistently work hard under pressure and time constraints in all weather.
- Attention to detail and ability to manage pace to efficiently and effectively complete tasks.
- Resourceful and passionate about agriculture and environmental issues is a plus.
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills.
- Must be able to lift and carry 50 lbs.
- Must be willing to learn to use heavy farm equipment and machinery, including tractors.

The Farm Lead is a 40 hours/week position. The position will run from April through the end of October / early November. Pay is \$16/hour. Benefits are not included. Shared housing is included near River Bend Farm. Free staff meals are available when we are serving program participants in the dining hall.

To apply for this position please send your resume and letter of interest to Rich@TheEcologySchool.org

Quality of life and enjoyment of work is important to The Ecology School. Farm labor is physically and mentally challenging. We've made the intentional decision to limit the Farm Leads hours to 40 per week so the individual is not unfairly expected to perform demanding farm work to the extent that burnout is reached. It's important to enjoy time at River Bend Farm and the incredible mission-driven work that is being done here.