

ORGANIC FARMER WANTED



Organic Farmer wanted to manage a small scale (15+ member) established CSA program at the Butler Township Community Garden in Drums, PA.

This is a fantastic low-risk opportunity for an aspiring agricultural entrepreneur to plant and maintain an established 1/4-acre organic market garden, manage weekly CSA subscriptions, and participate as a vendor in the Downtown Hazleton Farmers Market. The Farmer will not only learn the basics of bio-intensive garden operations, but also gain insight and experience in marketing organically and locally raised produce for retail sales. For those interested in starting their own farm market program, it provides a unique opportunity to "test drive" the experience before committing time and money to purchasing land, materials, and equipment.

Work Description: Season generally runs from April through September. Work will include all tasks associated with managing and maintaining a garden for production of organic produce sales, including but not limited to: seeding & transplanting, tilling, fertilization, organic pest management, weed control, irrigation, harvesting/packing, marketing, social networking, retail sales, farmers market participation (optional), and produce subscription management.

Compensation: This is an independent contractor position without salary, personal liability insurance, or benefits. Compensation will be 92% of all net revenue collected through produce sales (8% of net revenue will be paid to the CLDS at the end of the season as payment for use of land, water, equipment, etc.). The CLDS also provides general liability insurance and product insurance for food grown within the garden.

Internship: The Market Garden manager will be responsible for managing an intern, whose position is funded separately. The intern will be available to assist with garden operations for up to 20 hours per week.

Qualifications: At a minimum, candidates should have organic gardening experience, an interest in local and organically raised food, a mature and responsible work ethic with strong organizational and communication skills, be in good health, have physical endurance, enjoy working outdoors, and be able to work independently. Manual labor is required (participants should be able to lift 40 lbs). Candidates should also be able to operate a tiller and a garden tractor (training will be provided), and provide their own transportation to/from the garden and the downtown Hazleton Farmers Market (optional).

About the Garden: The market garden is part of the 1.3 acre Bulter Township Community Garden, which is managed by volunteers of the Center for Landscape Design & Stewardship, a 501c3 organization. The market garden has been in production for six years with established CSA customers. It includes cultivated beds as well as two high tunnels (one used for germination and one used for cultivation). The garden is fenced and has water available for drip irrigation. Drip lines are available. A garden tractor is also available for use.

To Apply: Submit letter of interest to Krista Schneider at locus@ptd.net. For more information about the Butler Township Community Garden and the Market Garden program visit: www.DigCLDS.org or call or 570-578-5903.