



Canalside Community Food

a community supported agriculture scheme

Assistant Grower Job Description

Canalside Community Food (CCF) grows fruit and vegetables for over 150 members, providing a share 52 weeks of the year with entirely our own produce. We are a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme: our members pay a regular subscription to the scheme and receive a share of the harvest, creating a close, mutually supportive relationship between the farm and the people it feeds. Most members pick up their share from the farm on specified collection days.

We grow approximately seven acres for field vegetables, a two acre orchard for top and soft fruit, and seven polytunnels (totalling around a quarter of an acre). CCF is certified organic by the Soil Association. The field-scale production uses a Massey Ferguson 230 tractor operating a 1.2 metre, 3-row bed system allowing for the use of steerage hoes, though a lot of field work is done manually as well. The CSA owns about a dozen implements for use with the tractor including all the appropriate kit for doing all of our own topping, muck-spreading, cultivating, bed prep, and planting. Our tunnels use a permanent bed system and are mulched with a combination of municipal waste and our own compost. The orchard is now five years old and is home to a wide range of top and soft fruit.

As CCF has a mission statement to provide its community of members with a weekly share of seasonal vegetables produced solely on the farm throughout the whole year, the growers have developed an intricate sowing and cropping schedule with the aim of ensuring as much as possible that the quantity of vegetables given each week is balanced throughout the year.

We have ten 'workshare' volunteers who contribute 3-4 hours work per week on Wednesday and Saturday mornings in exchange for their share. We also run quarterly socials where all members are invited to help for a morning in a group activity, and various other events and workshops for members.

CCF employs a full-time grower / manager, a part-time administrator and part-time finance worker. The scheme is overseen by the Steering Group, comprised of these three employees plus a number of members.

The Assistant Grower will:

- Work with the grower / manager to attend to all aspects of care for the land and the production of crops, including soil preparation, sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting and other activities that support crop production such as pest and disease management, compost production and mechanisation;
- Support the grower / manager to carry out other work such as infrastructural work and general maintenance;

- Work regular days which may include Saturdays, and also be flexible in occasionally helping cover routine duties for example on Sundays. These will be prearranged with the grower / manager according to need and availability;
- Work flexible hours throughout the year due to the seasonal nature of the work;
- Help to oversee casual workers who may be drafted in at busy times of the year;
- Arrange the activities for the twice-weekly work mornings with the grower/manager, and manage volunteers appropriately;
- Uphold the principles and aims of CCF.

Experience and Skills

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working on a farm or smallholding • Able to do physical work outdoors in all weather conditions • Work as part of a team • Good timekeeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of organic growing, polytunnel growing and fruit production • Experience with farm machinery • Experience working alongside and managing volunteers

A confident, friendly and welcoming manner when dealing with people is very important at Canalside, as the farm team frequently interacts with the members on collection days, socials and work mornings.

We are seeking a suitable candidate to start in mid July, working 30 hours a week all year round. This is the equivalent of 7½ hours per day for 4 days a week although there is a degree of flexibility in the exact working arrangements; we are also open to a job share, for example two suitable candidates working 15 hours a week each. The pay rate is currently set at £10.20 per hour to give an annual salary of £15,912 per year (£1,326 per month). The post-holder will be employed and is entitled to statutory holiday pay, as well as any other applicable statutory entitlements, and will be auto-enrolled in the company pension scheme (NEST) if eligible.

Please email your CV and cover letter or any queries to mail@canalside.org.uk or post to Canalside Community Food, Leasowe Farm, Southam Road, Radford Semele, CV31 1TY; the application deadline is noon on Friday 13th May 2016. Selection will be based on a half-day working interview, to take place in the month following the application deadline.