

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Agriculture Production Coordinator
Bowers School Farm
2021-2022 School Year

Applications are being accepted for **Agriculture Production Coordinator** at Bowers School Farm located at 1219 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI.

OVERVIEW: Bloomfield Hills Schools manages both Bowers School Farm and E.L. Johnson Nature Center as place-based learning sites, inspiring learners and engaging the community with unique experiences and highly trained staff.

Bowers School Farm is a 93-acre working farm with diversified animal and crop production where students and community members can connect with and learn about agriculture, food and natural resources. Visitors can engage directly with livestock and crops while working and learning with the farmers that care for them. Acquired in the mid-1960's to be used as a land laboratory, the farm welcomes over 35,000 visitors annually for school field trips, summer camps, community events, recreational programs and much more.

The E.L. Johnson Nature Center is made of up 40 acres of diverse habitat including more than 2-miles of trails, a four-acre inland pond home to a diversity of fish, forests, prairies and a sugar bush all managed to provide native habitats for a wide range of species. Visitors to the site can observe red fox, turkey, coyote, deer, mink, as well as numerous birds, amphibians, and reptiles in their natural habitat. Established in 1968, today the nature center hosts summer camps, school trips and high school classes all while maintaining a free and accessible space to the community.

PRIMARY PURPOSE: We are seeking an Agriculture Production Coordinator to provide leadership and coordination of all aspects of crop production at both Bowers School Farm and Johnson Nature Center, including growing and expanding vegetable and fruit production with a focus on sustainability and education. Production goals vary from season to season, with the primary goals of growing crops for market while facilitating and expanding educational and community programming around specialty crop production. The work schedule varies and includes weekends and evenings.

REPORTS TO: Operations Specialist

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Create and execute a production plan encompassing soil health, crop schedule, crop rotation, nutrient management, high tunnel management etc. as it pertains to specialty crop production.
- Facilitate educational experiences for a diverse range of programs and learners, including summer camp, field trips, membership programs, workshops, community events and more.

- Execute field work independently with an understanding of when and how to prepare fields, amend soil, prepare transplants, manage pests and weeds, harvest, wash and pack, market etc. with the goal of providing a diverse and consistent offering of crops for education and sale.
- Maintain an organized and functional production, office, cold storage and wash space at the farm with an understanding of the shared educational nature of space.
- Assist in design, procurement of materials, implementation and construction of infrastructure upgrades.
- Work with supervisor and sales team to develop annual budget and actively manage finances throughout the season.
- Provide assistance and leadership with production and education around maple syrup production at the Nature Center, pumpkin production, and other agricultural demonstrations.
- Provide training to staff and volunteers with the goal of empowering them to utilize production spaces effectively for education.
- Supervise volunteers, youth groups and staff as they interact with production spaces.
- Develop novel educational experiences for existing programs and expand workshops and community events.
- Understand and implement key strategic initiatives.
- Support and participate in other functions as appropriate or as needed by the Director.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 3 years of vegetable farming experience.
- Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, agriculture, environmental studies or related fields preferred.
- Experience and desire to work with diverse learners, particularly but not limited to youth.
- Knowledge of soil management, plant pathology, pest management strategies and season extension.
- Must have the creativity, flexibility and understanding required to work with a variety of people in a collaborative, team-oriented work environment.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with individuals from diverse communities and cultures.
- Must be committed to the mission and purpose of the organization.
- Strong and effective organizational, written and verbal communication skills required.
- Ability to operate farm machinery and tools.
- Comfortable lifting 60 lbs and working in harsh weather conditions.
- Proficient in basic computer applications (e.g. Google suite, Excel, PowerPoint, Qualtrics, etc.)
- Ability to travel in local and surrounding communities and occasional long distance travel are required as a regular part of this position.
- Transportation is the responsibility of the employee.

STATUS: Position will be available for application December 17, 2021

COMPENSATION BENEFITS: Pursuant to the Conditions of Employment for Coordinator Staff and commensurate with experience. Salary range: \$41,000 - \$55,000.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: For more information, email ajaros@bloomfield.org or call 248-341-6480.

METHOD OF APPLICATION: All applicants, who want to be considered for this position, must submit an application at: <https://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/about/departments/human-resources/careers>

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disability should be directed to the Section 504 Coordinator: Director of Special Education, 7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, (248) 341-5415. Direct all other inquiries related to discrimination to: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations, 7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301, (248) 341-5425.