



Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is currently seeking applicants for the position of *Head Farmer- Tsawwassen Farm School*.

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) is a research and outreach institute based on KPU's Richmond, BC, campus. Through our integrated program of applied research, extension programming, and community engagement, we investigate and support regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities. We focus predominantly on British Columbia but also extend our programming to other regions. More information is available at www.kpu.ca/isfs.

The Tsawwassen Farm School

The Tsawwassen Farm School is a collaboration between the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) and the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). The first of its kind, the school fuses sustainable agriculture and traditional indigenous food systems as tools to build community and create dialogue around land stewardship for the future. The school program is open to all with curiosity on how to feed a growing population while restoring the land. The program curriculum takes place on traditional TFN lands on a 20 acre Certified Organic farm that boasts a medicine garden, a 2-acre mixed fruit orchard, a market garden, farm animals and incubator plots for continuing students. The Tsawwassen Farm School is a gathering place to raise awareness around human scaled alternative food production systems. More information is available at <http://www.kpu.ca/tfnfarm>.

Position Description: Head Farmer– Tsawwassen Farm School

Wage: \$18-20/ hour (based on experience)

Hours: 35 per week

Contract: Casual Service Contract, April 1st, 2017 to November 30th, 2017, may be eligible for extension or renewal in 2018

Supervisor: Dr. Kent Mullinix (ISFS Director), Corine Singfield (Farm Manager)

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced farmer to join our team. As the Head Farmer, you will be involved in all aspects of market garden and orchard cultivation, raising livestock, direct marketing, and record keeping. You will work as a team member with the Farm Manager, Farm School Coordinator, teachers, students, and other staff and can expect to supervise students, interns, and volunteers who assist in various capacities on the farm.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Work closely with the Farm Manager to align farming activities with Tsawwassen Farm School class and practicum requirements whenever possible
- Help in leading all aspects of cultivating the orchard and market garden
 - Crop planning, soil preparation, seeding, seed starting, transplanting, soil management, fertility management, tractor work, IPM, cover crop planting, , harvesting
 - Care for farm livestock including layers, pigs, bees
- Operate and perform routine maintenance on farm equipment and machinery including tractor
- Maintain farm records for future farm planning, financial accounting and evaluation, and for maintaining organic certification
- Assist in all aspects of direct marketing
 - Prepare produce orders and/or CSA boxes (wash, sort, package), attend farmer's markets
- Coordination of the farm operations with the Farm School program of instruction
- Assist Farm Manager and Teachers in providing technical support for students and incubator farmers
- Participate in building/maintaining small farm structures

Qualifications

- Minimum 2 years of farming experience including vegetables, fruits, livestock, preferably on Certified Organic farms
- Alignment with the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems and TFN Farm School's commitment to sustainability and adult educational programming
- A love of farming and a passion for sharing your knowledge with others
- Positive, professional and collaborative attitude and demeanor
- Interest in working with a diversity of people including the Tsawwassen First Nation community
- Excellent organizational skills and the ability to work independently
- Ability to take initiatives and troubleshoot
- Class 5 driver's license
- Ability to work outside for long periods of time in difficult weather conditions, ability to lift 50lbs
- Knowledge of and experience operating small scale farming tools/equipment including tractors

To apply for this position, please submit your cover letter and resume to Corine Singfield (Farm Manager, ISFS) at corine.singfield@kpu.ca and copy Caitlin Dorward (Senior Research Associate, ISFS) at caitlin.dorward@kpu.ca by the application deadline of **March 1st, 2017**.