Practical Farmers of Iowa is Hiring a Livestock Coordinator

Practical Farmers of Iowa is seeking an outgoing and dedicated professional to join our staff as *livestock coordinator*. For over 35 years, PFI has equipped farmers to build resilient farms and communities through farmer-to-farmer knowledge-sharing, on-farm research and strategic partnerships.

This full-time position will work with PFI staff, farmers and members to design, coordinate and execute farmer-led educational events, and will serve as a relationship- and network-builder for livestock farmers in the Practical Farmers community. The livestock coordinator will work closely with many types of farmers, enterprises and systems, including conventional and organic, medium- and small-scale livestock farmers and graziers comprising beef, swine, sheep, goat, poultry and dairy farmers.

The livestock coordinator will join a dynamic, innovative team at Practical Farmers of Iowa whose passion for Iowa’s ecosystems, communities, farms and rural livelihoods is mobilized though farmer-led work, servant leadership and grassroots movements for lasting landscape change. The livestock coordinator need not be an expert in livestock production and management, but must have experience with diversified livestock farmers, pasture-based systems and an ability to understand, discern and respond to their evolving needs and interests. Practical Farmers offers a flexible, fast-paced work environment with opportunities for independent initiative and professional development.

**Duties:**

- Plan, organize and staff PFI’s livestock field days, conferences, workshops and farmer-gatherings
- With Practical Farmers’ livestock program manager, brainstorm and develop objectives, plans and timelines for the future of PFI’s livestock program that align with PFI’s strategic plan and livestock farmers’ interests and needs
- Recruit and train livestock farmers to serve as leaders by hosting or speaking at events, sharing their perspectives with the media, conducting on-farm research or other forms of leadership – and help secure those opportunities
- Steward, facilitate and grow regional and interest-based networks of farmers and stakeholders to promote farmer-to-farmer learning about diverse livestock production, farm business management and local food systems
- Work with livestock farmers and stakeholders to reduce barriers to the viability and growth of pasture-based livestock enterprises
- Coordinate and partner with relevant organizations, businesses, researchers and educators in Iowa and beyond, as appropriate with PFI’s mission
- Seek grant opportunities and write proposals to fund programming related to diverse livestock and crop systems, agroforestry, silvopasture and climate change mitigation
- Track grant deliverables and progress, and prepare grant reports
- Communicate about PFI’s work and mission to varied audiences via written media and presentations
- Work with the communications team to feature livestock farmers’ experiences and perspectives in PFI publications and in external media
• Author articles for PFI’s quarterly magazine and blog
• Coordinate with PFI’s communications team to develop and curate relevant and timely content for the livestock program webpage
• Support and collaborate with team members in a manner that promotes cross-program partnerships and team cohesion

Qualifications and Characteristics:

• Bachelor’s degree in animal science or agriculture-related field strongly preferred; master’s degree desired – or equivalent experience in the fields of agriculture, livestock production or agroecology. Individuals with different professional backgrounds and degrees who have knowledge of and passion for the work are also encouraged to apply, and will be considered for the position
• Two years of professional experience preferred
• Working knowledge, experience and appreciation of diverse animal agriculture, pasture-based farming systems and local food systems
• Knowledge of ag policy, government programs, food and farm business development, supply chain or aggregation logistics and market development preferred
• Comfortable working with a wide audience of farmers and stakeholders
• Excellent interpersonal and professional communication skills
• Demonstrated ability to build relationships
• Ability to comfortably manage and facilitate groups in person and online
• Experience organizing and managing events
• Strong writing skills
• Experience writing grant proposals and grant reports
• Ability to work efficiently and accurately, and a demonstrated commitment to high-quality work in a fast-paced environment
• Ability to prioritize and organize work
• Sound decision-making skills
• Ability to work independently and within a team
• Motivated and a self-starter
• Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel, Google platforms and virtual meeting platforms
• A passion for livestock, farmers, farming and diverse landscapes

This is a full-time position based in our Ames office. Annual salary range is $34,000-$40,000, based on experience and qualifications. This position requires travel (mostly in Iowa), a valid driver’s license, the ability to lift 50 pounds and the ability to walk long distances.

This position reports to Meghan Filbert, livestock program manager. Practical Farmers of Iowa is a family-friendly employer. The position includes full health care benefits, a flex plan, short- and long-term disability, life insurance and generous paid time off. Employer contribution to a 401k retirement plan is offered after one year of employment.

Please apply by sending a cover letter, resume and professional references to Meghan Filbert at meghan@practicalfarmers.org by March 19, 2021.