

Job Title: Farm Manager - Sims Hill Shared Harvest, Bristol**Status:** Employed, 4 days per week

Contract: Permanent, subject to three months notice by either side. Working hours may also be varied at three months notice.

Pay rate: £10/hour**Closing date for applications:** 30th of November 2017**Start date of post:** 1st of Feb 2018, or earlier by arrangement

Sims Hill Shared Harvest is a Community Supported Agriculture cooperative based in Frenchay on the edge of Bristol. We are seeking applicants for the post of Farm Manager to manage the CSA and wholesale enterprise.

Sims Hill Shared Harvest grows mixed vegetables for its 90+ members (65 full veg share equivalents) using organic standards and has 6 acres of field space with an additional 1000m of protected space (tunnels and glass house). The growing area is split across the Sims Hill site and some space at the nearby Feed Bristol project which is run by Avon Wildlife Trust. Surplus veg is sold to local businesses to generate extra income, and veg is bought in sparingly from organic wholesalers on demand to cover shortfalls. We supply our members with a share of veg 12 months of the year.

We are looking for an experienced commercial organic grower with an understanding of CSA values and the ability to lead a team of volunteers and other employees. The role will be responsible for the planning, production and delivery of CSA and wholesale vegetables, as well as developing relationships with partners and wholesale clients, and developing other income streams. Part of the role also consists of the continuing setting up and development of infrastructure on the site including raising funds.

You will work with Chloe, our existing paid grower and may delegate some responsibilities to her by agreement with the board.

In addition to both paid workers, the growing team consists of a team of work share members and volunteers. Since October 2016, Sims Hill Shared Harvest also runs two social projects. Both are managed by dedicated, employed staff. As part of this on a Thursday we host a community food centre inviting people in crisis to become part of our community, do some gardening work and cook a meal together. We also offer school education sessions on healthy nutrition and food growing. The growing team are required to line manage the project staff, and be actively involved in the planning and delivery of the projects.

Responsibilities

Managing and delivering on the growing cycle including planning, crop production and delivery

Managing and delivering the field cultivation including crop rotation and fertility building

Delivering and further establishing tractor cultivation including acquiring further implements needed

Managing staff and volunteers

Providing excellent communication with our members (e.g. newsletters) and provision of involvement opportunities for our members (e.g volunteer days)

Ensuring Health and Safety practices are in place and followed

Leading on financial planning and reporting

Developing markets for commercial sales

Developing new income streams

Applying for funding to improve infrastructure

Ensuring equipment is maintained

Ensuring that Sims Hill operational policies are followed

Developing relationships with key partners

Reporting to Member's meetings (typically twice yearly)
Attendance at all Sims Hill board meetings (typically monthly)

Essential job requirements:

Commitment to CSA principles and working within a CSA structure
Commitment to natural growing techniques
Enthusiasm for collective working and proven ability to lead a mixed team

3 yrs commercial growing experience ideally including wholesale and retail
Experience of financial planning
Experience in tractor driving and field cultivation

Ability to work on own initiative as well as part of a team
Good organizational skills including good time-management and an ability to prioritise
Good people skills

Driving license
Own vehicle suitable for transporting farm materials, veg to/from wholesalers
Proficiency in Microsoft Excel

Desirable:

Own computer and internet access
Experience of leading training/ workshops
Broader farm knowledge including hedgerow management, drainage, track management
Understanding of permaculture values and principles

**Please apply in writing including a cover letter and CV to simshillsharedharvest@googlemail.com.
Closing date 30th of November 2017 .**

More about Sims Hill Shared Harvest: <http://simshill.co.uk/membership-information/>