



Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association Job Description

Organic Production Specialist Created March 2022

Title: Organic Production Specialist

Overview Initially, the primary responsibility of this position will be to provide support investigation of PFAS contamination through individual technical assistance and resource navigation, education and collaborative participation in research. Long-term, the responsibilities are to provide MOFGA's farmers and gardeners with knowledge and resources needed for them to be successful in growing organic crops, through direct contact and educational materials. The specialist will assist farmers with crop production and organic certification and encourage the use of organic practices among Maine's farming community.

Supervisor: MOFGA Farmer Programs Director

Position: Salaried. This position is considered Exempt under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. The employee is not eligible for overtime payment.

Work Week: Full-time. Nights and weekends as needed for events and meetings.

Salary Range: The starting salary range for this position is \$52,000 - \$65,000 annually, dependent upon experience and highest academic degree with the high end reserved for a PhD. MOFGA has an excellent benefits package including medical, dental and vision insurance and paid parental leave. Employees receive a generous time-off package including paid vacation and sick time, three personal days, and 14 paid holidays annually, with additional paid holiday time at the end of the year

Location: This position requires travel within the state of Maine, mainly for off-site visits to farmers, as well as, office-based work. There are opportunities for remote and flexible work arrangements but this position is required to be Maine-based.

Required Abilities & Knowledge:

- Degree in Soil or Plant science, Sustainable Agriculture or related field of study, MS or PhD preferred
- Experience in organic farming and gardening
- Knowledge of National Organic Program regulations
- Strong familiarity with related technologies and scientific disciplines
- Excellent research and project management skills
- A willingness to initiate contacts with new people and a high degree of motivation
- Ability to work creatively and take initiative to find solutions
- Ability to communicate effectively, verbally and in writing, with staff, volunteers and the public
- Commitment to equity and social justice





Responsibilities

- Provide support to farmers navigating concerns related to PFAS contamination
- Provide support to farmers in Maine on organic production techniques
- Provide support and training in programs that will help farmers become certified organic
- Keep abreast of new technologies in sustainable agriculture by reading appropriate literature, attending conferences, and maintaining contacts with academic and extension communities
- Keep abreast of USDA National Organic Program and national sustainable agriculture and certification issues
- Participate in research efforts relating to PFAS or organic agriculture.
- Answer questions and provide advice regarding farming and gardening, pesticides, and related issues through on-site farm visits, phone conversations, mail, e-mail and occasional articles and reviews for MOFGA's newspaper
- Write how-to bulletins and fact sheets on general gardening/farming practices and on particular crops, pests, and management systems directed toward an audience of farmers and gardeners relatively new to organic practices
- Present at MOFGA, Cooperative Extension, Maine Department of Agriculture and other relevant meetings and events
- Carry out all of the responsibilities listed above in accordance with the mission statement, goals, and philosophy of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

MOFGA's success is dependent upon the collaborative spirit among its staff members and volunteers. Employees are expected to be ready and willing to assist colleagues in all program areas when directed to do so by their supervisors.

The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association is a broad-based community that educates about and advocates for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities. MOFGA is committed to creating an inclusive and sustainable workplace that reflects this mission. MOFGA is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, political orientation, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law. We strongly encourage BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as veterans to apply.

To Apply: please submit a cover letter, resume and a writing sample to Ryan Dennett, Farmer Programs Director, at rdennett@mofga.org. Applications will remain open until the position is filled and we will begin application review and interview scheduling by April 25.

