



Farm Infrastructure Manager, Transplanting Traditions Community Farm

The mission of Transplanting Traditions Community Farm (TTCF) is to uplift food sovereignty in the refugee community through access to land, education and entrepreneurial opportunities. The farm provides a cultural community space for refugee adults and youth to come together, recreate home, build healthy communities, and continue agricultural traditions in the Piedmont of N.C. The farmers that make up the community at TTCF have life-long experience growing food. The unique service that TTCF provides to these farmers is thoughtfully curated education and assistance to strengthen their farming skills not only in this climate but this economy. The Business Development and Share-A-Share programs TTCF leads help farmers participate competitively in farming as a business as well as providing ongoing access to culturally significant foods in the Burma refugee community.

The Farm Infrastructure Manager will work closely with the Farm Operations Manager & Farm Programs Educator, community gardeners, and 13 farm businesses owners making up the community farm.

This position is hands on with work occurring at the Transplanting Traditions Farm site in Chapel Hill. The work will be a combination of repair, upkeep and maintenance of farm equipment and infrastructure as well as some mentoring and teaching farmers at the TTCF site on how to repair and maintain farm equipment and infrastructure. One significant goal of this role is for farmers to be trained and equipped with the knowledge and skills to make simple repairs to farm equipment and infrastructure on their own. Depending on whether the nature of the repair is time-sensitive may dictate whether it will be a solo repair or if the repair can be used as subject material to teach a hands-on workshop to farmers. In cases where a second set of hands is required the Farm Operations Manager and Farm Programs Educator or available farmers can be available to assist.

The ideal person for this job will be comfortable working with small machines, tools and have some knowledge and skills in carpentry, irrigation/plumbing as well as some basic knowledge of electrical work. Other important qualities include being comfortable outside for extended periods in all types of weather, and problem solving and diagnosing farm-related technical issues. Since this position will work closely with the farmers, many of whom have limited English skills, the ability to communicate information in plain language as well as through more than verbal communication is important. Whether it's providing technical assistance or providing workshops to farmers on repairs, this individual will need to be confident in their farm knowledge and communication skills. The nature of this work may ebb and flow, for example if an important piece of farm equipment breaks, for example the AC unit in the walk-in cooler, it will be necessary to devote all weekly hours towards repairs. Otherwise the hours in this position will be dominated by less time sensitive maintenance work, for example re-staining the exterior siding of the greenhouse and developing workshops and training for farmers.

Responsibilities

- Coordinate with Farm Site Managers and Farmers on repairs and maintenance of farm infrastructure and equipment.

- Some examples of infrastructure and equipment, but not limited to, include: 3 wells, 2 walk-in (coolbot) coolers, a centrifugal pond pump, mini split, farm irrigations systems, wash pack station, two cisterns, caterpillar tunnels, several acres of woven wire deer fence, a Clivus Multrum composting toilet, several farm structures, a BCS tiller and a riding lawn mower.
- Develop and teach educational workshops with the goal of training farmers in simple repairs and maintenance.
- Must be able to teach and develop educational workshops to multi-language farmers
- Develop some maintenance and repair manuals for common and easy repairs and maintenance with basic information for farmer's future reference and guidance
- Ability to coordinate with independent contractors to complete more complicated maintenance and repairs. Such as repair driveway, well pump replacement, mini split, electrical, concrete and construction, etc.

Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience in maintenance, repair and upkeep of equipment and infrastructure; carpentry, plumbing, electrical
- Access to personal tools and equipment; Transplanting Traditions does have a supply of tools but not all the tools that are needed for repairs and maintenance. There is an existing but limited budget for purchasing supplies and potentially some tools but ideally this candidate has access to basic personal tools such as carpentry power tools
- Working knowledge of Google and Microsoft Suite including presentations, Excel/Sheets, and forms
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work cross culturally and with a diverse group of people
- Excited to work with a dynamic team of co-workers
- Interest in teaching and developing educational workshops to multi-language farmers
- Strong attention to detail and ability to keep excellent records
- Fluent in English
- Access to reliable transportation to and from the farm at 2912B Jones Ferry Rd, Chapel Hill
- A commitment to practicing language justice and racial equity work
- Fluent in Karen and/or Burmese preferred but not required
- Experience teaching or leading workshops is preferred but not required

Desired start date: March 2025

Time commitment: This is a 1099 contracted position with an hourly pay rate of \$38-\$42 depending on experience. The yearly contract will include 780 hrs per year which is an average of 15 hrs a week. Flexibility is allowed in hours and days worked but expectations will be that a minimum of 2 days per week is spent at the TTCF farm site in Chapel Hill
Applicants with immigrant or AAPI identity are encouraged to apply.

Direct Report: Farm Programs Director is the direct supervisor of this position

Location: Chapel Hill, NC

Salary and benefits: N/A - contractor position

Questions: Contact info@transplantingtraditions.org

How to Apply: Please submit a cover letter stating interest and intent for the position as well as a resume to info@transplantingtraditions.org Interviews will start in January and will continue until the position is filled.

To discourage practices of negotiating that have historically reinforced larger systems of inequality, Transplanting Traditions posts the amount we are able to offer for each position. Please do not apply to a position if the compensation listed does not meet your requirements.

We strive for work-life balance however the seasonal nature of the organization or project deadlines occasionally requires longer work weeks or weekend work with compensation time provided.

We are a family-friendly organization and do our best to be compassionate in scheduling to meet the needs of employees with families.