



Request for Proposals: Farm Camp Development Consultant

Organization Description:

North Amherst Community Farm's (NACF) mission is to promote and support sustainable agriculture in the heart of North Amherst, Massachusetts. The primary objective of NACF, a non-profit organization, is to preserve and develop its 35-acre farm site into a productive and educational agricultural resource for the community.

Project Description:

Our vision is to cultivate the farm as a unique community and natural resource. We envision that NACF will be a hub of community life and home to a working, organic, and sustainable farm operation while maintaining the integrity of the wildlife corridor, natural landscape, and the public walking trails through and around the farm.

As part of our vision, we plan to create educational and cultural programming that will strengthen the bonds within our diverse community and engage a wide diversity of adults and children in the culture of farming and raising farm animals while raising awareness of the connection between sustainable food production and the health of the environment.

Specifically, a need for a children's farm camp at the North Amherst Community Farm has been identified in surveys of current program participants. At the 2009 Harvest Festival, NACF volunteers surveyed the crowd as to what types of educational programs would be of interest. Of the 100 people responding to the survey, 87% of those with children indicated an interest in a farm camp at the site.

NACF has received a grant to develop a farm camp curriculum specific to North Amherst Community Farm and to assess the site for compliance with Massachusetts and Amherst day camp regulations.

Project Components:

- Develop or adapt a curriculum for a farm camp at North Amherst Community Farm for children ages 7 - 12. We would appreciate ideas for both a single, multi-age group and two groupings of 7-9 and 9-12 year olds. We currently envision a two-week long session or sessions operating Monday-Friday from 8:30-3:00 PM; however, we are open to other ways of structuring a camp.
- As part of envisioning how a children's camp could be successfully integrated on the NACF site, become familiar with the activities and rhythms of the Community

Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm operation that leases the property (called Simple Gifts Farm).

- Become familiar with surrounding neighborhood resources (Mill River Recreation Area and trails, North Amherst Library, Puffer's pond, etc.) and consider how they might be utilized as part of the camp experience.

Experience Preferred:

Qualified candidates will have skill and/or experience in some or all of the following areas: children's educational program development and implementation, environmental education, sustainable agriculture, camp counseling and/or administration.

Final Products:

Develop or adapt curriculum(s) for a farm camp at North Amherst Community Farm for children ages 7 - 12. The proposal should include an overview of the curricular focus and objectives, a list of activities and experiences designed to achieve them, a daily schedule, a breakdown of what the progression of experiences would look like over the course of the camp period, and a list of materials and equipment needed to implement the program.

Compensation: Compensation will be \$1,500.

Completion Date: The work shall be completed by August 31, 2010.

Reply to RFP:

Please send letter of interest along with qualifications to Therese Fitzsimmons, Executive Director, North Amherst Community Farm, nacfonline@gmail.com (preferred) or P.O. Box 9648, North Amherst, MA 01059. We will begin reviewing proposals on June 15th. Questions can be directed to Therese at nacfonline@gmail.com.

Background Information:

In 2006, the North Amherst Community Farm was created when the Dziekanowski farm, one of the last working farms in North Amherst, was purchased and saved from development. Funds were raised through a combination of private donations and town and state funding. Run by a local volunteer board of directors, NACF worked out a long-term lease with Simple Gifts Farm (SGF) to run a community supported agricultural operation on the land. By combining their efforts, these two organizations have formed a successful public-private partnership that promotes sustainable, organic farming methods, provides healthy farm products to the region, educates the community about food and farming issues, and helps preserve the agricultural heritage and character of the North Amherst Village Center Historic District.

More information about NACF can be found on our website, www.nacfonline.org.