



JOB OPPORTUNITY – FARM BEGINNINGS FACILITATOR

Dakota Rural Action (DRA) is seeking the right individual to join our team. The newly hired Farm Beginnings Facilitator will get the opportunity to work with the staff and members of a fast growing grassroots organization and directly on an important beginning farmer training program. The position will be located in the Black Hills. This is a seasonal part time position.

Dakota Rural Action is a grassroots organization working in South Dakota on family farm, environmental, energy, and local food issues. DRA organizes at the grassroots level to build a strong base of members who work together to make change at the local, state, and national levels. DRA is a democratically run organization with decisions made by our Board of Directors, chapters, and committees. Farm Beginnings is a training program taught by local farmers and ranchers that provides participants with the support and education needed to launch a profitable and sustainable enterprise. The course provides a solid base of knowledge around farm business planning as well as the opportunity to network with both beginning and established farmer mentors. The class features 10 classroom based sessions held during the winter months and features on farm trainings and learning sessions throughout the year.

This facilitators duties will include:

- **Working directly with the Farm Beginnings Coordinator to:**
 - Recruit students for the class

- Recruit and prepare farmer trainer/presenters
- Help identify and schedule on farm trainings and learning sessions
- **Working independently:**
 - Prepare for and facilitate the 10 classroom Farm Beginnings Sessions
 - Manage, collect and process class evaluations and homework assignments
 - Answer questions about the program asked by students and the general public

Qualifications:

- Must have completed a four-year degree or have equivalent experience
- Farming experience is a plus
- Be familiar with basic software, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Gmail or Microsoft Outlook. Must be comfortable navigating the internet and handling administrative tasks (creating basic promotional materials, making phone calls and conducting meetings, for example)
- Ability to work effectively in networks and coalitions
- Excellent writing, speaking and interpersonal communications skills
- Skilled in group dynamics
- Excited about meeting and working with new people
- Knowledge of South Dakota and its people a plus
- Must have a driver's license and be able to drive
- Possession of personal vehicle is helpful, but not necessary
- Must be a team player
- Driven by a strong sense of justice and understanding of Racial Equity

Salary and Hiring date:

Starting wage is \$15+ depending on experience. Between 10 and 20 hours a week.

Apply:

Send resume, writing sample, and three references to Frank James, Director, PO Box 549, Brookings, SD 57006, fejames@dakotarural.org, 605.697.5204. If you have any questions please contact Dakota Rural Action.

Dakota Rural Action (DRA) organizes people and builds leadership while developing strong allied relationships. We protect environmental resources, advocate for resilient agriculture systems, and empower people to create policy change that strengthens their communities and cultures.

We envision an active and engaged membership promoting healthy, beautiful, and just food, agriculture, and energy systems that protect clean air, water, and soil for all the current and future inhabitants of South Dakota.

