



Farmers Market Internship – Work Study Winter/Spring 2018/19

Organizational Info

Begun in 2004 as a student thesis project at Brown University, Farm Fresh has grown briskly to capture the public interest in locally grown food and translate it into sales for RI farmers and producers. Strongly mission-driven, Farm Fresh achieved 501c3 status in 2007, and has since implemented a variety of programs to enhance the local food system of the Rhode Island region, with particular attention to farm viability and low-income access to fresh food. Farm Fresh operates a wide range of marketplace programs (retail, wholesale, processing, education) that engage and connect tens of thousands of RI, MA and CT eaters with thousands of RI, MA and CT farmers.

Mission: *Farm Fresh Rhode Island is growing a local food system that values the environment, health and quality of life of RI farmers and eaters.*

Vision: *A New England abundant with diverse family farms and fertile soils, with locally and honestly produced foods and flavors at the heart of every dinner table.*

Internship Description

The Farm Fresh RI Farmers Market Intern, reporting directly to the Program Director for Community Access (CA), will be working alongside the Community Access Team to promote our late summer and fall food access programs. CA programming at Farm Fresh RI entails programs that increase the affordability of fresh, local foods; increase constituent knowledge about fresh, local foods; and increase the availability of fresh, local foods for all residents of Rhode Island. CA programming credits farms in their critical role for solving foods-related crises in Rhode Island, including hunger, diet-related illnesses and environmental degradation.

The Farm Fresh RI Farmers Market intern will learn about all Farm Fresh RI programs including: Market Mobile, Farm to School, Farmers Markets, Veggie Box, Healthy Foods Healthy Families, and Harvest Kitchen; while primarily focusing on how these programs work together to promote a healthy resilient food system and bridge the gap between agriculture and public health. Working closely with the CA team, the Farmers Market Intern can then use this knowledge to promote and communicate about these programs directly in underserved communities of Rhode Island.

Position Description

Farmers Markets and Bonus Bucks are two of the CA programs. Farm Fresh RI directly manages 11 farmers markets statewide. Our markets are targeted to be in areas, which are considered to have poor access to healthy fresh fruits and vegetables. By hosting and promoting farmers markets in food insecure neighborhoods Farm Fresh RI hopes to make the healthy choice the easy choice. In order to make locally grown produce more affordable to low-income families, while still providing a fair price to local farmers, Farm Fresh RI launched our Bonus Bucks program in 2011.

In previous years, for every \$5 spent with SNAP benefits at Farm Fresh markets, Bonus Bucks provide an extra \$2 free for fresh fruits in vegetables at the market. These nutrition incentive bonuses are distributed to families in a token currency that Farm Fresh refers to as Fresh Bucks. Last year Farm Fresh Rhode Island received Federal funding through a Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant to double the amount of markets in the state who distribute and redeem Bonus Bucks. This year, Farm Fresh RI received Federal funding through a FINI grant that doubles this bonus, so customer receives a \$1 free for every \$1 spent, in the form of Bonus Bucks. That's doubling what they swipe from their EBT card.

Primary Responsibilities (but not limited to):

- At markets:
 - Intern will work alongside Farmers Market staff to implement the Fresh Bucks currency system at local farmers markets
 - Help to coordinate and promote market events to low income shoppers such as National Farmers Market Week, Health Fairs, and Heritage Festivals
- In the office:
 - Intern will assist with outreach efforts, data entry, and back-end event operations and preparations.

Qualifications Required:

- Passion for community engagement, public health, sustainability, and the local food movement
- Currently enrolled as an undergraduate or recently graduated
- Commitment to a flexible work schedule of 8-12 hours per week (flexible and can be adjusted for any internship requirements)
- Must be able to work Saturdays from 8 am – 3 pm

Skills Required:

- Excellent professional communication skills (written and verbal)
- Great attention to detail
- Ability to work in diverse settings
- Ability to collaborate and work as part of a team



- Self-motivated and committed to see tasks through to completion
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite, Google Drive and Social Media
- Ability to prioritize and handle a variety of assignments simultaneously in vibrant work environment

Availability and Hours

- The ideal candidate will be able to commit 8-12 hours/week (flexible and can be adjusted for any internship requirements) during the Winter/Spring. Must be able to work Saturdays from 8 am – 3 pm. The schedule will be tailored to the applicant.

Duration: Winter/Spring 2018/19

Hours: 8-12 hours/week (flexible and can be adjusted for any internship requirements)

Contact

To apply, or with any questions, please contact thea@farmfreshri.org. Please write “Farmers Market Internship – Work Study” in the subject line. To apply please submit a resume and a letter of interest.