

# CRAIGARDAN

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## Farmer Job Description

### **FARMER POSITION OPENING**

Craigardan, an arts and agriculture nonprofit located in Elizabethtown, NY, seeks a dynamic new farmer to join the team and help develop, grow, and maintain the organization's small-scale diversified mountain farm. Located on 320 acres of field and forest adjacent to the Adirondack Park's Hurricane Mountain Wilderness area, the farm is non-traditional, and extremely rural.

We grow vegetables and fruits and raise animals to feed participants in our residency program, to fill the kitchen pantry for our culinary artists-in-residence, to sell in the farm store, and to give to local families in need through our Gardan Share program.

This is a year-round, full-time position (40 hours/week) with room for growth into a director level position that allows for creative problem-solving, innovation, and exploration in a supportive, inclusive environment.

This position provides a rich and rewarding farming experience while maintaining a positive work-life balance. The Adirondack region is known for its work hard / play hard ethos, and Craigardan is located at the center of this incredible playground for outdoor enthusiasts. The staff is the heart and soul of this place-based organization and we value their personal well-being as much as their professional growth. Learn more about our people and programs at [www.craigardan.org](http://www.craigardan.org).

### **WHAT WE DO**

Craigardan is a nonprofit arts organization and educational working farm that leverages collective creativity for social good. We bring people together for place-based and interdisciplinary learning, providing creative residencies, courses, and events that span diverse artistic and knowledge disciplines in order to foster curiosity, inquiry, and collaboration.

Craigardan supports ceramic, literary, visual, and performance artists, as well as farmers, chefs, activists, scholars, and researchers from the Adirondack region and around the world. We cultivate a dynamic that amplifies each individual's work and activates collective creativity within the community. We believe that fostering the interaction between artists and the local public is as important as providing sheltered time to artists to further their creative practices.

As an organization deeply rooted in this region's unique history, Craigardan exists at the nexus of processes (re)making this region's present and future: environmental conservation, the resurgence of small farms, rural economic revitalization, and cultural/ social activism.

By developing interdependent connections within our local Adirondack community, we nurture a deep sense of place through people, culture, food, stories, and the exchange of ideas and skills. With a built-in focus on equitable exchange across a wide range of disciplines, Craigardan offers an experience that ties the creative process to larger contexts. This experience leads to new questions and new initiatives; and it generates positive social change through collective creativity.

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## MISSION + VISION

Craigardan is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to encourage the human imagination to interpret the world with philosophical, ecological, and artistic perspective. We envision an Adirondack region defined by its makers who are committed to the development of sustainable systems that integrate the needs of human communities with the integrity of the natural world.

## THE POSITION

As an integral member of Craigardan's team, the farmer must work closely with staff in all areas of the new farm. With the direction and collaboration of the Executive Director, the farmer will:

- Help design and implement planned phases of the new small-scale diversified farm and trail network throughout 320 acres of field and forest
- Execute tasks within all areas of farm operations including: livestock, vegetable and flower gardens, orchard and small fruits, CSA shares, and food storage and preservation
- Work closely with staff, interns, and volunteers to reach daily, weekly, and monthly goals
- Work with staff and interns to create, implement, and improve operational systems and structures
- Assist with farm classes and events
- Participate as an integral member of the regional farming community while working together to strengthen and promote the Adirondack region's food system.

## WHAT YOU DO

You have acquired some basic skills and knowledge and you have a strong desire to continue learning:

- livestock management including: laying hens, broilers, sheep, goats, and pigs
- Pasture management, fencing, and rotational grazing
- Small-scale fruit and vegetable production from seed through harvest
- Soil improvement tactics including rotational grazing, composting, cover cropping, and living mulches
- Regenerative practices that test and integrate knowledge and techniques from permaculture, agroforestry, silvopasture, and agroecological methods
- Food storage and preservation including cold storage, freezing and canning. Butcher skills are a plus.
- The importance of craft and craftsmanship; and fostering the connections between agriculture, food, and the arts

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You are capable, curious, and positive; and you are comfortable in your ability to:

- Lead but also listen; ask questions and take direction
- Be highly dependable, observant, and adaptable
- Work alone for long hours and work side-by-side in a team. Work outdoors in all conditions year-round.
- Safely operate equipment including mowers and hand tools
- Handle animals with your safety and their welfare as first priority
- Work with documents and spreadsheets as well as tools and equipment
- Work quickly and efficiently, without missing details
- Lift 50 pounds safely and repetitively, and accomplish physically demanding work 5 days per week.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Required Education and Experience:

- High School diploma or GED
- At least 2 seasons of farming experience

Applicants must also have a strong affinity for Craigardan's mission and work.

## **COMPENSATION**

Full-time, 40 hours per week, year-round position starting as early as April 1, 2022

This position provides training and offers room for growth for the right candidate

Starting salary \$40,000 - \$45,000 commensurate with experience and skills

The employment package includes:

- 30 paid holiday, personal, and wellness days per year
- Medical benefits
- Staff shares of farm food produced at Craigardan and 15% off in the Farm Store
- Free access to programs and educational classes
- Continuing education, training, and professional development support

COVID-19 vaccination is required.

This position requires working occasional nights, weekends, and some holidays, depending on the season. This job description covers key responsibilities but does not outline all duties. All applicants must be willing to commit to at least two years.

Craigardan is an equal opportunity employer. We highly encourage applications from women, farmers of color, and LGBTQIA+ farmers.

## **APPLY**

Send a cover letter, resume, and three references by email to Michele Drozd, executive director, at [info@craigardan.org](mailto:info@craigardan.org). Deadline is rolling until position is filled.