



TITLE: Farm Assistant at the AMI Allegheny Farm in Highland County, VA.

POSITION OVERVIEW: Allegheny Mountain Institute (AMI) is a nonprofit organization working to cultivate healthy communities through food and education. We seek (2) Farm Assistants at the AMI Allegheny Farm in Highland County, VA to help with the day-to-day operations of one-acre of vegetable production. This is a unique opportunity to live and work on a thriving yet remote organic farm and education center in an abundant and life-nurturing temperate mountain ecosystem. The Farm Assistants support and are mentored by our core farm staff and organizational leaders, using sustainable production methods in all operational aspects. This includes: plant propagation, cultivation, crop rotation, cover cropping, harvest, distribution, pest, disease, and nutrient management, maintenance of irrigation, compost, grass, weeds and mulch, and assistance with community donation programs and market sales. Farm-grown produce is distributed weekly throughout the Highland County community, via donations to community services/programs (i.e. Food Bank, Meals on Wheels), the weekly farmers' market, and wholesale outlets. This position may require assistance with farm hospitality and campus chores (no more than 10% of allotted weekly work time).

OUR FARM:

AMI's Allegheny Farm is situated between 4000 and 4400 feet in elevation on a 550-acre farm in Highland County, VA, bordering both Virginia's George Washington National Forest and West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. The headwaters of the James, Potomac, and Greenbrier Rivers all begin their flow from a triple watershed divide (Eastern Continental) located on the top hay field. The farm was initially homesteaded about 100 years ago; about 100 acres are cleared. While only 25 minutes from the beautiful town of Monterey, arriving at the Allegheny Farm feels like ascending to a flourishing ecological sanctuary.

Unique ecosystems abound within the farm's perimeter, with beautiful groves of red spruce and mixed hardwoods, old-growth rhododendron and mountain laurel thickets. Wildlife is plentiful, and the old pastures give way to wildflowers of all kinds, wild fruit, various native edibles, medicinal plants, fungi, moss, and lichens. This area has a lush climate with abundant rainfall and dense vegetation. Summers can be quite cool; the average rainfall is 41.5 inches per year. Plant hardiness zone is 3-4, with approximately 120 frost-free days.

SCHEDULE: This is a SEASONAL full-time position: May 1 - September 30, 40 hours per week; weekly schedule will vary depending upon farm and market activities and watering schedule. This position requires regular weekend and periodic evening work.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Desire to learn and practice sustainable farming using methods that emphasize biodiversity and soil health
  
- Farming and gardening experience; understanding of vegetable cultivation
- Strong multi-tasking, organizational, and time management skills
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Forward-thinker with capacity to take initiative
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills
- Ability to remain flexible and open minded
- Comfort and ability to work outside in physically demanding environments, at times alone
- Comfort and ability to live in a remote, rural environment
- A valid driver's license with a good driving record

- Willingness to undergo and pass an initial orientation, including a criminal background check

**COMPENSATION:**

This is a full-time position with an hourly rate ranging from \$18.00 - \$20.00 an hour, depending on experience. Benefits include: Housing and farm-grown food share, workers' compensation coverage. This position requires regular weekend and periodic evening work.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:** This position requires working outside in physically demanding environments, including climate fluctuations. This position requires the ability to lift 40 (+) pounds regularly.

**TO APPLY:**

Submit your application including a resume, cover letter, and references to [amifellows.org/join-our-team](https://amifellows.org/join-our-team). Email [kayla@amifellows.org](mailto:kayla@amifellows.org) with any questions. **Application deadline: March 8, 2024.** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

AMI is an Equal Opportunity Employer actively and consciously seeking to create a passionate team that is representative of diverse backgrounds, points of view, and experiences. People of color, LGBTQ individuals, people with disabilities, and people with other marginalized identities are encouraged to apply. We will not discriminate in our hiring on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, pregnancy, mental or physical disability or political affiliation.

Visit our website for more information on AMI and our programs. [www.amifellows.org](https://www.amifellows.org)