



We're Hiring

Statewide Organic Agriculture Coordinator

Job Title: Statewide Organic Agriculture Coordinator

Reports to: Executive Director for Farm & Food (Louisiana Central).

Status & Pay: Salaried \$52,000 - \$60,000 depending on experience, full-time, exempt.

Benefits: Health Insurance, vision/dental insurance, HSA contributions, life insurance, generous and flexible vacation and sick-time, professional development opportunities. A small relocation stipend may be available.

Work Schedule: Monday-Friday with some weekend and evenings required

Work locations/conditions: 1302 Murray Street Alexandria, LA (office) and frequent statewide travel for meetings, events, workshops, farm-visits, as needed; work is outdoors in all weather conditions with some operation of tools and equipment up to 50 pounds, plus inside at a desk in an open office environment; year-round, some shifts may exceed 8 hours as needed. Some out of state travel may be required.

Job Duration: This position is grant funded for a 5 year term.

OVERVIEW

Louisiana Central is a community based organization that has been working in food systems for more than 10 years; we care passionately that the people of Central Louisiana, our home, have livable incomes and build intergenerational wealth. We value knowledge as primary currency – deployed to improve the profitability and competitiveness of business. We build vibrant communities to create, attract, and retain employers in places where people want to live. We measure success by the region's median household income increasing faster than the nation as a whole. Our Farm & Food team facilitates the Louisiana Food Fellows program to foster leadership in Louisiana food policy, manages the Alexandria Farmers Market, facilitates a year-long farmer training program for new and beginning farmers and ranchers, is a founding member of the statewide Farmers Market Managers Network, and a founding member of the Louisiana Small Scale Agriculture Coalition.

Market Umbrella is a 26-year-old community non-profit that operates the Crescent City Farmers Markets, provides community education related to nutrition and local, seasonal foods and offers a robust array of food access and vendor support programs. Our work supports Southeast Louisiana foodways and culture, serves as a small business incubator and supporter of the local economy, and provides food access programs that help all New Orleanians have greater access to fresh, local foods and drive revenue for market vendors. The Crescent City Farmers Market operates weekly farmers markets in the New Orleans area, hosting over 75 local small farmers, fishers, and food producers, and more than 100,000 shoppers annually. In addition, Market Umbrella recently launched Greaux the

Good, a new program supporting farmers markets around the state to offer matching programs related to SNAP and FMNP.

SPROUT's mission is to support established and developing small-scale and sustainable farmers, community gardeners, and farm workers in Louisiana with technical and social support to build a stronger, more equipped community of growers in Louisiana and help all New Orleanians be part of a community food system. SPROUT pitches into our community food system in several ways: managing a community garden, cooperatively selling produce for farmers at Crescent City Farmers Market for a diverse marketing cooperative of vendors, supporting partner community gardens, and providing resources and support to farmers regionally. We provide land access and grant support with a focus on Socially Disadvantaged farmers and work on state-wide climate policy and community organizing from a food-systems perspective.

These three organizations have a long history of successful collaborations, including shared positions.

ABOUT WHERE THE POSITION IS BASED

Alexandria is the center of the Louisiana Central service area and region. Bordered by the Mississippi River in the East and the Sabine River in the West, with rolling hills in the North and fertile farmland in the South, Central Louisiana offers the state's widest variety of attractions, food, and lifestyles. From outstanding youth programs to the finest in music and art, the best hunting and fishing in the country to secluded hiking and mountain biking trails, lakes and waterways for canoeing and kayaking, central Louisiana has a quality of life that can meet and exceed any need. Each of our 10 parishes has something unique to offer and together, they form a region rich in culture and recreational opportunities. Alexandria boasts easy access to the Kisatchie National Forest and a variety of waterways for hiking, biking, paddling, or camping; a growing downtown neighborhood along the Red River; two institutions of higher education (Louisiana State University at Alexandria and Central Louisiana Technical Community College); a variety of museums, parks, theaters, and special interest groups. Central Louisiana is the heart of Louisiana and a great place to live, work, and play! Take Your Kayak to Work Days have been known to happen.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

This full-time staff member is a new position that will support organic production practices with food producers across the state with comprehensive technical assistance. They will also provide outreach to consumers to encourage a broader understanding of the value of making local organic food a purchasing priority. The Statewide Organic Agriculture Coordinator will foster meaningful connections with other small farm and business support providers throughout the state to create a pipeline of services that encourages the adoption and implementation of organic agricultural practices with an emphasis on the specific market, climate, and cultural needs of Louisiana. The Statewide Organic Agriculture Coordinator will be expected to work collaboratively with the relevant programs at Louisiana Central, Market Umbrella, and Sprout Nola to ensure program goals are met, they will be based at the Louisiana Central office in Alexandria, LA and answer to the Executive Director for Farm and Food there. This position will also work closely with the Louisiana Small Scale Agriculture Coalition (LSSAC) member organizations to ensure that outreach and education opportunities are statewide and cohesively integrated into existing and new programs. The ideal candidate will live in the ten parish region of Louisiana Central, there are some options for remote work and frequent statewide travel is expected. As an employee among multiple organizations, the person chosen for this role will commit to:

- Open and forthcoming communications about confusion, priority setting, and any need for clarity in leadership they encounter.
- A high level of communication to help facilitate positive collaboration between all three organizations.
- Careful communication, especially publicly, around the organizational positioning in regards to organic production practices and other nuanced messaging, so as to build strong networks amongst producers, food system advocates, and buyers statewide.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Technical Assistance (TA)

- Provide tools and support for Louisiana specialty crop producers to adapt growing practices and increase consumer awareness of, and preference for, sustainably grown agricultural products grown with organic production practices.
- Establish and formalize TA practices through creation of toolkits, webinars, instructional videos, and other guides and resources, and create an accessible schedule for class/webinar offerings.
- Provide one-on-one consultations with producers to give individual guidance on steps to transition to organic production methods, including travel to farms across the state.
- Disseminate resources from Louisiana Central, Market Umbrella, and Sprout to stakeholders and partners statewide.
- Collaborate with Louisiana Small Scale Agriculture Coalition (LSSAC) to ensure organic production practices are incorporated into statewide work.
- Foster a network of support for producers engaged in transitioning to organic production practices
- Explore and adapt organics best practices to LA food production

Reporting & Data Management

- Track project data with tools in Google Workspace and other software.
- Complete and submit required grant reports, both narrative and financial through required channels.
- Collect and report evaluation data, including collaborative creation of evaluation metrics and mechanisms.
- Establish a baseline of LA organic production practices in order to measure success.
- Navigate/satisfy needs of the three organizations that support this position.

Outreach & Recruitment

- Grow the organic production community.
- Contribute to consumer education through formal and informal outreach programs & activities.
- Build a viable organic production network by connecting with other food system support entities/partners and service providers who work with small scale producers, including travel to local, regional, and statewide events.
- Working with LC, SPROUT, MU, and other partners, identify producers who are currently practicing and/or have expressed interest in organic production practices.
- Act as point of contact for producer inquiries and referrals, program communications, between LC/SPROUT/MU in regards to organic production systems and consumer outreach.
- Design/create outreach materials to promote to partners, producers, customers and a general audience.
- Perform consistent stakeholder outreach using appropriate tools and technology

Development

- Research and identify new funding streams to support continued organic market growth.
- Research and coordinate with contractors and partners to provide services to the project as needed.
- Build partnerships with organizations that share similar missions/goals.

Skills (things you're good at and enjoy):

- Communicating simply and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Interacting with diverse populations with enthusiasm and respect.
- Staying organized and juggling ongoing and overlapping tasks, priorities, and deadlines.
- Strong attention to detail, even amid distractions.
- Being able to connect the dots to solve problems creatively and efficiently.
- Working proactively to make things happen in a challenging environment.
- Balancing the execution of day-to-day tasks while working toward a long-term vision.

- Staying calm during challenges.
- Working independently as well as on a team (and with other teams).
- Comfortable with basic remote work tools (Zoom, Basecamp, etc.)
- Fluency in Spanish, Cajun French, or other languages in use in the central Louisiana region in addition to English would be very welcome.

Requirements (things you have education or experience in):

- Knowledge of or experience in local food systems, farming, sustainable agriculture, organic production practices, USDA National Organic Program, community development, entrepreneurship, public health, data management.
- Operate Google Workspace proficiently (Drive, Gmail, Groups, Photos, etc.).
- Project management.
- Ensure a culture of diversity and inclusion.
- Community outreach, event planning, and public speaking.
- Workshop development.
- Training diverse groups of people to shift mindsets on specific topics (teambuilding).
- Work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Drive your own reliable vehicle.
- Grant/technical/copywriting.
- Other duties as assigned.

Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination Required

EEO Statement

Louisiana Central is committed to a policy that provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition including genetic characteristics, physical or mental disability, veteran status, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, and to make all employment decisions so as to further this principle of equal employment opportunity. To this end, Louisiana Central will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition including genetic characteristics, physical or mental disability, veteran status, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, and will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are offered employment and employees are treated during employment without regard to these characteristics.

ADA Statement

Louisiana Central is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request accommodation in the application process, contact Bahia Nightengale at least 48 hours in advance at BNightengale@louisiana-central.com.

To Apply

Email your resume with any supporting documents you feel will help us understand your interest and qualifications for this role to BNightengale@louisiana-central.com, with 'OG Coordinator Application' in the subject line. The position is open until filled, however we are extremely motivated to identify the ideal candidate for this role.