



## Farm Production Assistant

### Organization Description

The mission of the [Somali Bantu Community Association](#) (SBCA) is to provide vital transitional services, advocacy, and programming that empowers members of the refugee community to uphold cultural identity and thrive in their new life here in Lewiston/Auburn, Maine.

The main programmatic undertaking of the SBCA is the community farming program, [Liberation Farms](#). It aims to provide new American farmers access to, and culturally-appropriate resources for, the means of sustainable food production for themselves and their communities to bolster food and economic security. The program assists over 130 Somali Bantu farmers by providing access to land, seeds, trainings, technical assistance, and marketing.

### Job Description

We are seeking a Farm Assistant for Liberation Farms to work under the direction of our Farm Production Manager & Educator. This position is expected to run from mid-May through late August with the option to extend for an additional semester depending on the Farm Assistant's availability and schedule. The position will be split between our three farm sites in Auburn and Lewiston.

This position focuses on supporting and educating new American farmers and assisting them in growing commercial produce for local institutions, farmer's markets, and food pantries.

### Schedule

Flexible and will be determined based on the individual we hire. There is the opportunity to work 20-40 per week, depending on the Farm Assistant's availability.

### Duties & Responsibilities

- Assisting the Farm Production Manager with their duties including helping to run trainings, seedling production, supporting farmers in the harvesting/washing/packing of commercial orders
- Setting up irrigation and other farm infrastructure
- Executing daily agricultural duties (watering, weeding, pest and disease management, general field/greenhouse tasks)
- Assist with special projects

- Appropriately and safely utilizing all equipment and supplies
- Record keeping, labeling, and data entry of seedling production, plantings, and yields
- Ensuring compliance to soil fertility best practices

### **Qualifications**

- Experience farming or gardening diversified vegetables (cut flower experience a plus)
- Experience, or interest in, working cross-culturally
- Mechanical skills are a plus (small engine repair/maintenance, welding, etc.)
- Ability to lift 50 pounds preferable
- Ability to work in all types of weather including rain and snow
- Excellent communication skills
- Positive, self-starting attitude
- A driver's license and a reliable form of transportation

### **Compensation**

This is an unpaid internship. We are happy to work with schools to meet internship or credit requirements. If you are a graduate student (in any field of study) or an undergraduate student minoring in Food Studies you may be eligible for a PAID internship. Please contact Amy Carrington <[amy.carrington@maine.edu](mailto:amy.carrington@maine.edu)> or go to <https://usm.maine.edu/food-studies/internships-students> for more info.

### **How to Apply**

Email a resume and cover letter detailing your interest in the program and experience working cross-culturally to Ashley Bahlkow at [bahlkow.a@gmail.com](mailto:bahlkow.a@gmail.com).

### **Deadline**

April 15th, 2019