

About This Role:

The Cottonwood Extension District in partnership with K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems is seeking a Local Food Fellow to complete the local food system project: Harvest Hays & FHSU Green Connections.

The project aims to support the Fort Hays State University Department of Agriculture in developing and launching a hands-on Farm to Plate Camp. This camp will engage youth in agricultural education, teaching them sustainable gardening practices, plant science, and food production skills through interactive workshops and activities. Additionally, the project will assist Harvest Hays, a high tunnel garden operated by Arc of Central Plains, by creating and implementing effective marketing strategies to promote their locally grown produce, increasing community awareness and support for the garden's mission. This collaborative effort will enhance educational opportunities and strengthen community connections to local agriculture.

This part-time, 20-week fellowship will run from March 31 through August 15, 2025 (approximately 16 hours per week).

Responsibilities:

The responsibilities of the person leading this project would include:

- **Program Development:** Collaborate with the Fort Hays State University Department of Agriculture to coordinate curriculum and structure for the Farm to Plate Camp, which includes both produce gardening and animal agriculture, ensuring engaging and educational experiences for youth participants.
- **Program Coordination:** Organize logistics for Farm to Plate, including scheduling sessions, coordinating instructors, preparing materials, and overseeing activities.
- **Marketing Strategy:** Work with Harvest Hays to develop a comprehensive marketing plan for their produce, using platforms like social media, community events, and local partnerships to reach potential customers. Collaborate with local farmer's markets to increase visibility and sales opportunities for Harvest Hays' produce.
- **Community Engagement:** Build relationships with community stakeholders, such as local schools, youth organizations, and volunteers, to promote participation in both Farm to Plate and Harvest Hays' produce offerings.
- **Resource Management:** Identify and secure resources including gardening supplies or educational tools to support both the program and the marketing initiatives.
- **Evaluation and Reporting:** Collect feedback from program participants and community members to assess the impact of the project, making improvements as needed and providing reports to stakeholders on outcomes.
- **Outreach and Education:** Provide workshops or educational sessions to support the marketing efforts and enhance community understanding of the benefits of locally grown produce.
- **Complete final report** to be submitted to K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems Program Coordinator before finishing fellowship.

Location: This is an in-person position located at: Cottonwood District, 601 Main, Hays, KS

Why Join Us: This role offers the chance to make a meaningful community impact by supporting youth education and promoting fresh, local produce and Farm to Plate. It provides opportunities to develop skills in program planning, marketing, and leadership while fostering valuable professional connections. The work is rewarding and allows for creative freedom in designing impactful initiatives, making it ideal for someone passionate about agriculture, education, and community engagement.

For more information about K-State Research and Extension Local Food Systems, please visit <http://www.kansaslocalfoods.org/>

We Support Diversity and Inclusion: Kansas State University embraces diversity and inclusion. The university actively seeks individuals who foster a collegial environment and cooperative interactions with coworkers, students, and others. The University is dedicated to promoting the **Principles of Community**.

What You'll Need to Succeed:

Minimum Qualifications:

- Requires a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals, groups and through mass media and social media.
- Possess computer skills including email, internet, and Microsoft Office Programs.
- Must possess a valid driver's license

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working with individuals, groups, and co-workers to accomplish individual and/or group goals, as evidenced by previous leadership roles.
- Experience working with diverse audiences.

Other Requirements:

Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States at the time of employment.

How to Apply:

Please submit the following documents to Amanda Lindahl, Local Food System Program Coordinator: alindahl@ksu.edu AND Jay Harris, District Director of the Cottonwood Extension District: jayharris@ksu.edu.

1. Letter of interest
2. Resume

Screening of Applications Begins:

February 3, 2025

Stipend Amount:

\$5,600 for the 320 hour fellowship project

Equal Employment Opportunity:

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.