**Assistant Grower Vacancy – Five Acre Farm**

We are looking for a dedicated veg grower with a minimum of one season’s commercial veg growing experience to join the small team at our regenerative farm in Backwell, just outside Bristol. This could be an ideal opportunity for someone who has developed some core growing skills and experience and is looking to gradually take on more responsibility while still working under a Head Grower. The role will focus on veg growing and will include all aspects of market gardening work, and will also involve some mushroom cultivation, flower-growing and tending to hens, as well as the opportunity to work with bees if interested. There is no onsite accommodation available, however the farm has good public transport links, with regular trains and buses to Bristol.

**Job:** Assistant Grower at Five Acre Farm, Backwell, North Somerset BS48 3BQ

**Dates:** Permanent position starting early April 2023

**Wage:** £10.50/hour PAYE plus statutory holiday day and employer pension contributions

**Hours:** Apr-Oct: 5 days/week (40-45 hours), Nov-March: 4 days/week (32-36 hours) (4 days/week year-round also possible). Occasional weekend cover (approx. 1 full weekend every 2 months).

**Application deadline:** 14th December 2022. Please send a cover letter and CV (or any queries) to Jon – farmer@fiveacre.farm. Interviews to take place early January 2023.

**Job description:**

* Assisting with the management of all aspects of vegetable and mushroom production and sales
* Propagation, no-dig bed prep, planting, harvesting, packing, weed and pest management
* Some tractor driving including cultivation (full training provided if required)
* Input on practical decision-making such as prioritising jobs and assessing produce availability
* Some liaising with customers, producing invoices and other record-keeping
* Co-ordinating tasks with other team members including seasonal workers and volunteers
* Occasional assistance with/cover for flower harvesting and arranging
* Caring for laying hens (alongside other team members)
* Opportunity to assist our beekeeper in caring for bees
* Open channels of communication, support with professional development and opportunity to take lead in particular areas of interest

**Essential attributes/skills:**

* Minimum one full season’s experience in commercial vegetable production
* A reasonable standard of physical fitness and weather-hardiness
* Self-motivated and able to work independently and at a good pace

**Desirable attributes/skills:**

* Full driving licence (required for tractor driving)
* Hunger to keep learning and developing horticultural and related skills
* Commitment to organic principles and an enthusiasm for ecology
* Open communicator who enjoys working and making decisions in a collaborative environment
* An eye for detail and quality, and enthusiasm for ways of making processes more efficient
* Some carpentry/DIY skills
* Beekeeping experience
* Cut-flower experience
* Experience of managing volunteers

**About Five Acre Farm:**

5 Acre Farm is a small mixed farm in Backwell, 6 miles southwest of Bristol. We are run along agroecological principles without the use of artificial chemicals, and we put soil health at the centre of what we do. Our focus is on veg production, but we also have a cut-flower operation, 50 free-range laying hens for eggs, 10 active beehives, a shipping container where we grow gourmet mushrooms, and a young orchard.

We grow a wide range of veg and herbs, specialising particularly in leafy crops and high value polytunnel crops. We currently have a third of an acre of mulched no-dig beds, a third of an acre of tractor-cultivated beds and 750m2 of no-dig polytunnels in production. The plan is to refine our system on this scale in 2023 before expanding the following year.

We are part of the Tobacco Factory family and were established in 2018 as part of their mission to contribute to sustainable local food systems. Our produce is sold at the Five Acre Farm shop in South Bristol and our own onsite Flower Barn, and we supply the kitchens of Tobacco Factory, Grain Barge and Mark’s Bread, as well as a few other shops in North Somerset and Bristol.