## San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild Immediate Job Opening: Farmers-to-Farmland Project Coordinator

The San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild (Ag Guild) is seeking a Farmer-to-Farmland (F2F) Project Coordinator, based in San Juan County, Washington at approximately 12-15 hours per week, flex time. Pay rate: \$24-28 per hour, depending on experience. This grant funded position can start immediately.

## **Project Summary**

The Farmers-to-Farmland project uses a multi-pronged approach to help beginning farmers and ranchers (BFRs) establish or expand farming operations in the San Juan Islands. Target audiences are new and existing farmers, with a special focus on women and Latinx. Using a collaborative approach involving project partners, this program supports farmers and ranchers in developing farming goals, skills, access to land and capital, and general resiliency needed to farm successfully in the unique conditions of the San Juan Islands. Funding to support this position is provided by a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant.

## Job description

The F2F Project Coordinator will coordinate and implement the following program elements:

- Land access (~10 hours/week): Planning, outreach, delivery, and evaluation of land access and finance options for BFRs, with responsibility for
  - outreach to recruit farmers/ranchers and farmland owners interested in considering leasing or selling their farmland
  - researching public and private financing opportunities and tracking current funding options
  - o interviewing BFRs to determine farming skill levels, short- and long-term goals, business planning needs, and potential future markets for farm products
  - linking farmers/ranchers to appropriate farmland owners and supporting initial meetings to explore compatibility and opportunities for farmland leasing
  - interviewing farmland owners interested in leasing land, to determine general suitability and availability of farming infrastructure, such as water and housing.
- Farmer mentorship (~5 hours/week): Develop, implement, and oversee the BFR mentorship program, with responsibility for
  - designing, planning, and conducting outreach to BFRs (via social media, email, and website) in coordination with Washington State University Northwest Small and Latino Farms Educator and a Spanish translator
  - soliciting BRF mentees, including through one-to-one meetings
  - recruiting farmer mentors with expertise in areas of farming identified by BFR mentees, with at least one Spanish-speaking mentor
  - linking BFRs to appropriate mentors
  - monitoring and documenting mentor/mentee progress
  - creating and facilitating BFR peer groups

o conducting annual evaluations of the mentorship program

## **Desired qualifications**

- Knowledge of challenges of and opportunities for farming in the San Juan Islands, including knowledge of existing markets for farm products, knowledge of the farming community, relations with active commercial farmers, and ideas on farmland potentially available for lease
- Understanding of farming and agricultural practices relative to infrastructure, soil fertility, water demands, need for capital, etc.
- Proficiency in Word, Excel, Google Suite, and other relevant software
- Experience as a team player, with a track record of successful collaborative projects
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills, ideally with a high level of proficiency in Spanish
- Experience in conducting outreach, preparing press releases, and writing grant reports
- Experience tracking and evaluating grant success
- Commitment to helping to build and support a strong, viable agricultural community in the San Juan Islands

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a cover letter and resume with two references to director@sjiagguild.com. Deadline: Until position is filled.