

NH Farm to School / USDA Foods Fellowship

NH Farm to School, located at the Sustainability Institute at UNH, works statewide to help schools and other institutions access and serve local foods including fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and fish. Some of the food that is served in schools is obtained through the USDA Foods system, through which the federal government buys food on the farm market and offers the food to each State. These States then handle distribution to all of their qualified schools and other entities. The USDA encourages local food producers to sell through the system and designate their local foods to be distributed locally or regionally—but so far this has yet to be implemented in New Hampshire.

The NH Farm to School and USDA Foods Fellow will lay the groundwork for local food producers in New Hampshire to sell their products to schools through the USDA foods system. Specifically the fellow will:

- Identify and engage with local and regional food producers interested in selling through the system.
- Gather data on USDA food requirements for New Hampshire such as quantity, size, packaging, and delivery of food.
- Create a brochure (and/or other guidance and outreach materials) detailing the steps local food producers need to take to successfully sell their product through the USDA Foods system.
- Meet or communicate regularly with project director as well as representatives from the NH Department of Education, NH Department of Agriculture and the manager of the NH USDA Foods and surplus distribution office.

For more info: www.nhfarmtoschool.org and www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/USDAfoodfacts.

Location: UNH Sustainability Institute; Durham, NH; with regular in-state travel

Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 1-August 14, 2015

Qualifications:

- Enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program. Academic background (or experience) in business or logistics preferred.
- Exceptional written and oral communication and interpersonal skills
- Basic understanding of food systems, especially at a local and regional level
- Strong interest in working with local growers on sustainable business models
- Demonstrated ability to work well independently and on a team
- Graphic design or social media experience a plus

This fellowship is an opportunity for a highly skilled and motivated student to contribute to a unique and exciting new model. As a result, fellows will gain the following:

- An intimate knowledge of the business aspects of food production/ distribution
- Material to add to his or her professional portfolio
- Opportunities to network and build relationships