

Executive Director – Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network

Organization overview

The Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (ASAN) is a network of farmers, consumers, and agriculture-related organizations, all committed to promoting sustainable agriculture in Alabama. We are working to improve the situation of farmers in the state and to provide the state's consumers with fresh local products. ASAN members believe that by providing educational opportunities for Alabama's farmers and ranchers and by educating both consumers and agricultural professionals about sustainable agriculture, we can improve the lives of small farmers and rural and urban communities and make a positive contribution to the state's environment and health. We define "Sustainable Agriculture" as farming that supports families and communities while conserving natural resources.

ASAN's mission is to support conservation practices, families who grow and consume natural food and fiber, and the communities where they live.

Organizational goals are to:

- Increase awareness and appreciation for sustainably produced food and fiber.
- Expand sustainable agriculture practices among farmers through education and training.
- Promote methods for increasing farm gate prices and easy access to markets.
- Promote the interests of sustainable agriculture among state and local lawmakers and officials.
- Help develop the next generation of sustainable farmers.
- Help increase food security in urban and rural areas.
- Create opportunities to network (for business and pleasure).
- Build a culturally diverse network of sustainable farmers and consumers.
- Create an organization that is financially and structurally sound.

ASAN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation representing over 800 farms, ranches, homes, non-profit organizations and government agencies.

Position overview

The Executive Director is responsible for the leadership of ASAN through strong partnership with the Board, farmers and other Network members, and other stakeholder organizations. This includes managing the staff, budget, fundraising and programs, as well as implementing the organization's vision & strategic plan, developing and implementing an effective organizational structure, and leading the organization in its next phase of development. The position will initially be half-time. Additional funds to support a full-time, continuous position will be secured by the Executive Director.

Key responsibilities

Program and business management:

- Regularly review progress towards implementing ASAN goals and objectives.

- Facilitate and support the introduction of new programs and ventures through collaborations with other organizations with shared interests.

Outreach, education, and networking:

- Provide workshops, presentations, writing and other educational activities.
- Continually build relationships with diverse partners and move forward community-based work.
- Stay informed on current food policy issues.

Fundraising:

- Secure adequate support through grant writing, membership development, and other sources of income.
- Provide regular fundraising reports.

Budget control:

- Develop and submit for approval the annual budget to the board of directors.

Internal communication with the Board of Directors:

- Maintain regular communication with the Board of Directors.

External communication:

- Maintain regular newsletters and an effective website, online presence.

Staff and volunteer supervision:

- Oversee recruitment, hiring, and disciplinary actions related to contractors and volunteers.

Preferred qualifications

Passion for sustainable agriculture
5 years nonprofit management experience
3 years experience in related field
Demonstrated leadership capability
Demonstrated skills in fundraising
Demonstrated interpersonal effectiveness
Strong business acumen and financial management skills
Excellent communications skills

Position requirements

Location in Alabama
Ability to travel for a minimum of 10% work time
Home office or self-provided office space

Please submit a cover letter, résumé, and two professional references electronically to: **jobs@asanonline.org**

Position open until filled. We anticipate interviews to occur no later than 15 April, 2010.

We are an equal opportunity organization. Minorities, women, and people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Thank you.