



Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network

Internship Application

The Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network is offering paid and unpaid summer internships to those who are passionate about building robust, equitable, and ecologically sound food systems in Alabama.

About ASAN

ASAN was founded in 2001 to provide peer-led training, resources, and a community of support and shared experience for a growing number sustainable farmers throughout Alabama. Since then, ASAN has built a reputation for sound, honest, grassroots leadership at the forefront of sustainable agriculture and local food systems work in Alabama.

ASAN's core programs include: annual fall series of Regional Food & Farm Forums; quarterly print newsletter; scholarship fund for farmers to attend conferences and other training events; and workshops, farm tours, dinners, and other gatherings for peer-to-peer learning and community-building. Other areas of focus include consumer outreach/education and food policy.

How do we define "sustainable agriculture"? It's not a line you cross. Sustainable agriculture is a set of attitudes and skills and behaviors, a set of values against which farmers (and buyers) weigh their every decision. There are always ways in which a farm system can be improved, made more sustainable, and almost always those improvements tug at a fabric of social, political, and economic systems that reaches far beyond the farm gate. Because of that, we're about local change AND systems change, on-farm improvements as well as consumer education and cultural change.

About ASAN internships:

All interns will participate in the full breadth of ASAN's roles and operations, though internships can be tailored to focus on specific areas of interest, including: communications, public policy, food justice, research, event planning, outreach and community organizing, marketing and design, and/or other areas. As an intern you will engage with ASAN's network of sustainable farmers, nonprofit partners, educators, entrepreneurs, and advocates, and build the communication skills necessary to navigate a variety of cultural spaces. You will gain experience in all aspects of internal operations of a Southern nonprofit network that is racially and socioeconomically diverse, geographically expansive, and limited in staffing and resources.

Possible roles include:

- Create and manage content for quarterly print newsletter, website, and social media accounts
- Outreach on behalf of ASAN at farmers markets, events, and meetings
- Help to plan ASAN events including summer fundraiser and the fall Regional Food & Farm Forums series
- Conduct informal research regarding food policy, market research, and program planning and strategy
- Participate in day-to-day organizational functions (data entry, member communications, website maintenance, meetings, etc.)

Qualifications:

- Strong communication skills, both verbal (in person and on the phone) and written
- Ability to work independently
- Deep commitment to ASAN's core values of cooperation, collaboration, community-led organizing, transformational inclusivity, and critical, systems-level analysis of food-related issues
- Self-awareness, humility, and a commitment to relationship-building across diverse communities
- Self-structure, initiative, and accountability

- Long-term commitment to the betterment of Alabama’s farms, farmers, food system, and environment
- (Preferred) Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Publisher), Adobe Creative Suite, and/or Wordpress website platform

Start and end dates are flexible but interns must be able to commit to at least 10 weeks. Work schedule is also flexible. Interns will have regular check-ins with their supervisor but must be able to work independently. ASAN’s director is based in Birmingham, but interns based elsewhere in Alabama are encouraged to apply as they may be able to work remotely.

To apply:

Please submit the following to Alice Evans at alice@asanonline.org. Please include everything in one email with subject line “Summer internship application”, with all attachments in either .doc or .pdf format.

- Current resume or CV
- Cover letter (no more than two typed pages) addressing:
 - Your personal and professional skills and interests
 - Big-picture career and life goals and how an ASAN internship fits into them
 - How your own background – cultural, geographic, academic, socioeconomic, and/or anything else you’d like to share – has shaped your interest in sustainable agriculture, food justice, and other related topics
 - Your preferences regarding start/end dates, work schedule, and any needs or concerns regarding pay, transportation, access to technology, evaluation/documentation (for course credit, for example), etc.
- Three professional, academic, and/or personal references, including each reference person’s name, contact information, title/affiliation (if applicable), and your relationship to them (including time and duration)

ASAN deeply values the development of new leaders, especially those from marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds and identities, as we see empowerment and representation as key components of our vision for food justice (and all forms of justice). We have very limited staff capacity but remain committed to doing whatever we can to provide learning and networking opportunities to those who are willing to help us grow and diversify our network, sharpen our politic, and increase our capacity to make positive change.

Any additional questions may be directed to Alice Evans (Executive Director) at alice@asanonline.org or 256-743-0742.