



**Position: Orchardist**  
**Updated: January 2020**  
**Reports to: SVP of Hospitality and Agriculture**  
**Job Type: Full-Time (Start: February 2021)**  
**Work Location: Southall, TN**

### **Southall Description**

A premier farm and wellness destination bringing nature, produce and people together in a powerful and unique way. Southall is a new resort in Middle Tennessee offering authentic farm stays and farm inspired experiences. Southall has a commitment to managing the property with ecological principles and leaning towards a future with biodynamic management practices and sustainable decision making.

### **Position Description**

This position will be responsible for the stewardship of land management for all aspects of the orchard and fruit production on the property. Currently the orchard is 3 acres, 1300 apple trees with a 2000 capacity - espalier style management. This role may work part-time in annual vegetable production or animal husbandry. Orchardists will assist with resort events and guest engagement when related to orchards.

### **Orchardist Responsibilities**

#### **Leadership and Teamwork**

- Anticipate, plan and effectuate in order to facilitate and curate a premier, destination orchard and fruit program in Middle Tennessee
- Coordinate with program manager for staff, guest and volunteer opportunities
- Order and source materials while managing budget
- Continue professional development and training to develop sustainable, beautiful and organic operation.
- Keep positive presence with staff and guests, maintain clean physical appearance
- Ensure all spaces are clean, safe and beautiful to the highest standard consistent with resort aesthetics
- Remain up to date on current orchard practices through industry reading and Agriculture Department resources
- Developing standard of care for all fruit/nut trees on the property - and provide training to landscape staff.

- Coordinate with and support the landscape team with fruit trees located outside of the orchard.
- Communicates labor needs well in advance to coordinate with farm team workload

### **Orchard Stewardship**

- Prune and trellis the Orchard to meet the needs of Southall's team – including the kitchen, hospitality - and clients
- Monitor and maintain irrigation of the orchard
- Maintain and improve soil health
- Manage orchard and teamwork in order to maximize outcomes while protecting and respecting all life.
- Proficiency in hands-on operation/maintenance of tractors, sprayers, mulchers, and other related equipment. Coordinate with on-site Engineers.
- Implement pest, disease and weed control application and document, accordingly
- Continue to seek out and implement sustainable/biodynamic/permaculture methods where applicable.

### **Harvest**

- Lead and participate hands-on in the harvest of apples and pears
- Lead and participate hands-on in the annual planting of trees in orchards to fill out designated areas.
- Manage the distribution and proper storage of harvest.
- Collect, organize and maintain the harvest data

### **Nursery/Variety Cultivation**

- Introduce and incorporate the Julian calendar for Orchard Maintenance and Harvest
- Lead and participate hands-on in the grafting and nursery care of needed varieties of trees on a yearly basis to meet the needs of Southall
- Continually research and experiment with new varieties, integrating interesting varieties speak to history and southern culture. Collect unnamed variety cuttings when possible.
- Plans, leads and participates hands-on planting and cultivating of trees: apple, orange, peach, and other fruit and nut bearing trees
- Maintain a small collection of citrus in the greenhouse.
- Collaborate with the team to determine varieties and quantities of trees to be grown, acreage planted and maintenance resources needed to complete the project.

### **Animal Care** (possible role or integrated with animal husbandry position)

- Develop and maintain animal husbandry program, integration with orchard where possible
- Maintain Flock
- Dog companionship
- Participate in future animal enterprises and integration

### **Skills and Experience**

- 5+ years of experience maintaining orchards or agroforestry.
- Implementation of rotational/ poly-cultural grazing
- Experience and/or familiarity with organic methods

- Excellent verbal and written communications, giving/receiving direction, and presentation of plans/results; listening, asking questions, building consensus, presenting, obtaining buy-in
- Excellent team skills, including but not limited to; listening, coaching, guiding, flexible working, adaptability, collaboration, and facilitation
- Excellent planning, organizational and resource management/allocation skills – with attention to detail; Demonstrated ability to prioritize, manage and complete tasks;
- Working knowledge and reasonable capabilities in Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

### **Preferred skills and qualifications**

- B.A. or B.S. degree in Horticulture or related field
- interest in agroforestry, silvopasture, food forestry, permaculture experience
- Experience with animal husbandry
- Previous experience with hospitality, ag tourism, education and/ customer service
- Experience with post-harvest, value-added products
- Farm-to-table culinary experience

### **Reporting Relationships**

- Reports to the Director of Land Stewardship
- works with all farm staff

### **Compensation**

- Salary commensurate with experience.
  - As a salaried position the schedule will vary by week and seasons.
  - Benefits Package

### **Physical Tasks**

- Continual walking, standing, climbing, stooping, bending, kneeling, reaching, lifting, cutting and carrying.

### **Equipment Used**

- Tractors, Bobcat, dump truck, delivery truck, pick-up truck, rental equipment, hand tools, power tools, computer.

### **How to Apply**

Please email your resume to [careers@southallfarms.com](mailto:careers@southallfarms.com) and state the position for which you are applying in the subject line of the email. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until position is filled. Please submit applications by Dec 15th.