

Job Opening: Heritage Livestock Farm Assistant

The Accokeek Foundation

The Accokeek Foundation manages approximately 200 acres of land for public use within Piscataway Park, a national park located in Prince George's County. Through a partnership with the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation interprets the past, present, and future of agriculture and environmental stewardship. The park is open daily to visitors of all ages to enjoy a quiet landscape for education, recreation, and reflection.

The Accokeek Foundation maintains heritage breeds of livestock and poultry, some of the breeds are typical of a late 18th century middling family homestead as demonstrated by the National Colonial Farm. The Foundation's livestock collection serves three purposes: the first is to provide authentic period breeds for the interpretation as the National Colonial Farm; the second, to maintain living collections that protect and preserve the genetic diversity of our agricultural heritage; and the third is to steward the pastoral landscape through regenerative agriculture practices.

Position Overview

The **Heritage Livestock Farm Assistant** will serve as an integral team member of the Agriculture program providing support primarily to the Foundation's Heritage Breed Livestock Program as well as general Agriculture and Natural Resources operations.

Primary responsibilities include:

Heritage Breed Livestock Program

- **Livestock.** Animal care to include daily feeding, watering, and monitoring of Heritage Breed cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens and turkeys and cleaning of livestock enclosures.
- **Rotational Grazing.** Assist with maintaining healthy pastures according to the rotational, multi-species grazing plan to include moving animals and the setting up and taking down of temporary fences in pastures as directed.
- **Record-keeping.** Assist with maintaining animal health, birth, fleece, and pasture records.
- **Livestock Facilities.** Maintain safe, orderly, and sanitary livestock and poultry housing, fence lines and infrastructure, tools, and equipment related to daily farm operations.
- **Farmhands.** Support Livestock Farmhand volunteer program to include on-site supervision and training of volunteers.

Additional responsibilities include:

General Agriculture and Natural Resources

- **Garden and Field Crops.** Assist in maintaining crop and garden spaces for interpretation.
- **Natural Resource Stewardship.** Assist in maintaining the viewshed and native landscape.

General Public Education, Programs, and Events

- **Education and Programs.** Work with students, interns, volunteers, and the general public to support the Foundation's Agricultural and Education programs.
- **Special Events.** Assist with special events and interpretative programs.
- Other duties as assigned.

Professional Experience and Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have good interpersonal skills, display professional maturity, be a hard worker, be enthusiastic with a positive attitude, be observant, be a team player, be flexible and be willing to work independently. This individual is able to follow directions, is quick to learn and is detail-oriented.

Additional qualifications include:

- Able to lift 50 lbs and prepared to engage agricultural work in most weather conditions.
- Have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and a good driving record.

Preferred qualifications (Not Required)

- Experience with animal care, not necessarily livestock.
- Experience with hand and/or power tools and minor construction projects.
- Experience with farm machinery to include tractors, weedwhackers, and mowers.
- Proficient use of technology and online programs for record keeping, communications, and planning including Office 365 software.

Physical Demands

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit, stand, walk, use hands, reach with hands and arms, and talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, or smell. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close and distance vision.

Compensation and Benefits

This is a **Full-Time, non-exempt position** with weekend availability required. Starting pay ranges from \$15 - \$17/hour, depending on experience.

The Accokeek Foundation provides employees a comprehensive benefits package including flexible paid time off, cost share benefit, paying 50% of health insurance premiums, retirement matching, and paid disability and life insurance.

To apply

Send a resume and cover letter describing how your experience, skills, and interests make you uniquely qualified for this position by email with the subject line "**Heritage Livestock Farm Assistant**" to info@accokeek.org, or by mail to: Accokeek Foundation c/o Heritage Livestock Farm Assistant, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607.