

INTERN WITH FOOD FOR MAINE'S FUTURE

Food for Maine's Future seeks to build a just, secure, and democratic food system which protects Maine farmers and the environment from corporate control. We empower farmers and local communities to define their local food systems, and promote sustainable local alternatives in schools and in the fields. Food for Maine's Future is looking for a few interns to assist in the development of our campaigns and the implementation of our agenda. This agenda includes promoting food sovereignty, healthy schools, and the long-term viability of farming in Maine.

Internships will be based in Thorndike/Unity ME and require a commitment of at least 10 hrs/week for at least 1 month. We will work to provide free housing for interns who commit to at least 20 hrs/week for at least 3 months. Internship opportunities are available immediately, as well as for the spring and summer and will be filled on a first come first considered basis. So apply now!

Our Projects

Food for Maine's Future consists of several autonomous endeavors sharing resources, promoting a common mission, and contributing to our newspaper *Saving Seeds*. These projects, detailed below, include Protect Maine Farmers, Local Solutions, the Healthy Schools Initiative, Food Independence, and Defining the Future.

Protect Maine Farmers

Protect Maine Farmers is working to ensure that Maine's farmers have all the tools they need to be successful now and in the future. We seek to amplify and support the voices of farmers in this critical time as decisions are made that will impact the future of farming in Maine. Through farmer outreach, legislative action, and directly empowering farmers to act on their own behalf, we are building a just, secure and democratic food system.

- Developing consensus strategies and legislation to reduce the legal and environmental threats posed to farmers by genetic trespass
- Training farmers to be advocates for their concerns at local and state levels.
- Promoting market opportunities for farmers who use sustainable agricultural practices.
- Promoting discussion at the ProtectMaineFarmers.org website and through community listening sessions.

Healthy Schools Initiative

The Healthy Schools Initiative, a grassroots, decentralized organization, supports students, teachers, parents, staff, administrators, and concerned community members to promote healthy eating, school garden projects, and sustainable agriculture in the classroom. We believe that a strong connection to our food is essential to promoting healthy students and healthy local farming communities.

- Video Project documenting successful efforts around the state.
- Action Tool Kit
- Advocating for farm to school projects, healthy school lunches, school gardens, and sustainable agriculture curriculum.
- HealthySchoolsInitiative.org website

Food Independence

Food independence is when a nation, state, or community has the capacity to determine what and how much they eat, and has democratic control over who profits from it. Declaring food independence means declaring our right to know if the food in our markets is genetically engineered, or if it was sprayed with toxic chemicals, or if the farmers and farmworkers who grow and harvest our food earn livable wages. From global warming and corporate globalization, to racism and poverty, creating greater food independence is key to addressing many critical issues of our time.

- Tour of Farmers from the Global South
- Building the Maine Center for Food Sovereignty
- Annual Sustainable Agriculture and Local Foods conference
- Collaboration with Winter Cache Project, Eat Local Foods Coalition, and other groups.
- Defining Your Own Food System Workshops around the State

Local Solutions

Town meetings are one of the last truly democratic institutions in the state. Concerned citizens from a community gather to discuss, debate, or take action on the issues of the day. The Local Solutions Campaign is designed to stimulate debate, dialogue and action at the local level by empowering community members to hold forums, pass resolutions or ordinances, and host education events with a goal of defining their own food system and using their collective voice to impact food policy at the local, state and national levels.

- Assist communities in democratically defining their own food system
- Host video showings and other educational events
- Advise communities on developing, passing, and implementing resolutions and ordinances designed to mitigate threats to local farmers and farmers.

Defining the Future

Bio-fuels, genetically modified trees, grass, salmon, other animals, crops designed to produce pharmaceutical or industrial chemicals, and other forms of corporate and government control will impact every farmer in Maine. Our Defining the Future Campaign seeks to identify and then reduce or remove these threats before they threaten Maine farmers, consumers, or the environment.

- Workshops and other educational events focused on GE Grass, Trees, and Pharmaceutical Crops
- Using market pressure and legislation to prevent the introduction of these threats and to promote sustainable alternatives

Specific tasks that all interns may be asked to assist with include:

- Developing outreach and campaign materials
- Compiling a bi-weekly email newsletter
- Scheduling educational events (speakers, video showings, meetings) at venues around the state.
- Developing creative ways to garner media attention for Food for Maine's Future campaigns.
- Posting stories to our web newswire
- Reaching out to farmers, parents, students
- Compiling, entering into the database, mapping, and renewing landowner pledges
- Tabling at various events
- Assisting with compiling materials for grants
- Assisting with general office tasks

Qualifications

A basic understanding of the threats posed by genetic engineering and the importance of a sustainable local food systems or a strong willingness to learn is required. Grassroots organizing and/or farming experience is desirable. Ideal candidates will be well organized, self-starting, flexible and able to work independently. Internships will be based in Unity at our office or in the Maine Center for Food Sovereignty upon completion. We may be able to consider other locations in Maine for the right candidate.

To Apply

To apply, please send a letter of interest detailing the following: 1) Your views on genetically modified crops, sustainable agriculture, and food sovereignty; 2) Any previous experience in grassroots political organizing; 3) Three references; 4) Availability; and 5) Which of the following campaigns detailed above interest you most.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Letters can be sent in via email (prefer) to:

Food for Maine's Future

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info@foodformainefuture.org
www.foodformainefuture.org
www.healthyschoolsinitiative.org
www.protectmainefarmers.org
www.gefreemaine.org

"Building a just, secure, sovereign, and democratic food system"